

# FCC Commercial License:

## GMDSS Operator's License (DO)

The GMDSS Operator's License qualifies personnel as Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) radio operators for the purposes of operating GMDSS radio installations including some basic equipment adjustments. It also confers the operating authority of the Marine Radio Permit (MP). The GMDSS is also required for operation of the new satellite-based marine emergency equipment.

GMDSS operators are in the process of replacing all radiotelegraph operators as Morse code is being phased out on the high seas. Unlike Amateur Radio licenses which convey both operating and repairing, constructing, and maintaining privileges, holders of the GMDSS Operators license may NOT repair or maintain GMDSS equipment. You need a GMDSS-DM license to do that.

To qualify, you must:

- be a legal resident of (or otherwise eligible for employment in) the United States; and
- be able to receive and transmit spoken messages in English; and
- pass a written and/or telegraphy examination(s) as described below under Examinations.

To obtain the GMDSS/DO you must pass written examinations covering radio law (Element 1), and GMDSS radio operating practices (Element 7). Applicants must submit, to the FCC Commission, proof of passing written and/or telegraphy Elements as illustrated in the following table.

The GMDSS Licenses are issued for the holder's **lifetime**.

<a href="#">View Complete Exam Elements Table</a>	FCC Acronym	Examination Elements												Term
		Written								Telegraphy				
		1	3	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4		
<a href="#">GMDSS Radio Operator's License</a>	<b>DO</b>	•				•								LIFE
<b>About GMDSS (DO) Written Elements</b>														
Element	Overview													
1	Basic radio law and operating practice													
7	GMDSS radio operating procedures and practices sufficient to show detailed practical knowledge of the operation of all GMDSS sub-systems and equipment. The exam consists of questions from the following categories: general information, narrow band direct printing, INMARSAT, NAVTEX, digital selective calling, and survival craft.													