

U.S. GMDSS IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE

Captain Jack Fuechsel, USCG (Ret)
Task Force Director
7425 Elgar Street
Springfield VA 22151

5 June
2000

Captain Myles S. Boothe, USCG
Commanding Officer, National Maritime Center
4200 Wilson Blvd, Suite 510
Arlington, VA 22203-1804

Dear Captain Boothe,

The GMDSS Task Force was chartered by the Coast Guard to supplement government functions in implementing the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) in the U.S. The Task Force has a broad based membership from all sectors of the maritime community and has made numerous recommendations to the FCC and the Coast Guard including prior recommendations to the NMC on the implementation of STCW-95 GMDSS provisions.

The Task Force, at it's recent meeting on May 12, 2000, approved a recommendation from it's Training Task Group for a revised GMDSS Question Pool to replace the one currently approved by the Coast Guard for examining candidates for the Coast Guard STCW-95 GMDSS certification. The Question Pool currently in use was also recommended by the Task Force but after use by the GMDSS training institutions for several years, the Training Group felt that there were a number of ambiguous questions which should be clarified. The review also eliminated questions involving the implementation dates for GMDSS ships since those dates have already passed.

The new Question Pool was developed by a broad based ad hoc group headed by Owen Anderson one of our GMDSS instructors, with active participation by about twenty other GMDSS instructors. It draws heavily on the existing pool and also on the FCC's GMDSS Question Pool used to examine candidates for the GMDSS Operator's Certificate (GOC).

The new Question Pool consists of 600 multiple choice questions built around 100 key topics. Each of the key topics has six related questions. The questions are presented on 100 pages, each of which contains a key topic and it's six related questions. Thus a random selection of one question from each page should result in a well balanced 100 exam,

Assuming approval by the NMC, the Task Force plans to recommend to the FCC that the same new Question Pool also replace the FCC's GMDSS Question Pool. A paper copy of the proposed new Question Pool is attached and an electronic copy was previously forwarded to Mr. Jim Cavo of your staff in order to facilitate internal review and, if appropriate, posting on the Coast Guard web site.

The Task Force plans to keep the Question Pool under continuing review and make further recommendations as appropriate. Should you wish to implement the new pool for optional use before replacing the existing pool, we will advise the GMDSS training institutions accordingly. The Task Force stands ready to assist the NMC in other GMDSS related matters which you may have occasion to refer to us for advice.

Sincerely,

JACK FUECHSEL

Attachment: Proposed new GMDSS Question Pool

file: nmc-1.doc