

Marine Radio Licensing

<HSE-INFO-018>

This Information Sheet provides information about marine radio licensing requirements.

JCU Mandatory Marine Radio Licensing Requirement

By January 1st 2019, JCU boating operators (master of a vessel) must hold a marine radio license as part of the minimum qualifications to operate a JCU vessel.

At a minimum, all boat operators are required to hold a Short Range Operators Certificate of Proficiency (SROCP), commonly known as a VHF Radio Operators Certificate.

Exemptions

The boat operator may be exempt from holding this certificate if there is another approved JCU student or staff member on board who holds this qualification. Unless the vessel is moored and not being used as a work platform, both the vessel master and radio operator must remain with the vessel and must not partake in other duties such as diving or snorkelling. Acting as a Diver's attendant, or Dive Supervisor is allowed.

Exemptions also apply in locations where VHF is not an effective form of communication (e.g. inland waters). Alternative communication devices must be identified using an individual trip risk assessment.

How to Obtain a Marine Radio License

There are numerous options including on-line courses and face-to-face training, of varied cost and qualification level. The minimum requirement for operating JCU vessels is currently the Short Range Operators Certificate of Proficiency (SROCP).

To complete this qualification, it is possible to read the *Marine VHF Radio Operators Handbook and then complete a theory exam using a local invigilator. On campus theory testing is planned for September 2018, at a cost of \$115 - \$125 per person depending on participant numbers.

Local Courses Available:

The Navigation Centre (Townsville) - <http://www.thenavigationcentre.com.au/>

Phone: 07 4772 1069

Email: shop@thenavigationcentre.com.au

Short Range Operators Certificate of Proficiency (SROCP)

- Allow 30 minutes for the 25 multiple choice question exam.
- Exam sitting times are Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm.
- Marine VHF Radio Operators Handbook \$30.00.
- Exam & sitting fee \$110.00

Australian Boating College

Townsville: <https://www.abcboating.com.au/QLD/Townsville/contact.php>

Phone: 0416 099 479 (Jason)

Cairns: <https://www.abcboating.com.au/QLD/Cairns/contact.php>

Phone: 0448 814 655 (Brenton)

Cairns Boat School

<https://cairnsboatschool.com.au/marine-radio-licence-training-course/>

Phone: 0403 349 447 (Geoff)

Cairns Boat Safe Training

<https://www.cairnsboatsafetraining.com.au/marine-radio-operator-certificate-of-proficiency-mrocp/>

Phone: 0412 046 588 (Wayne)

TAFE Cairns, Great Barrier Reef International Marine College

<https://tafeqld.edu.au/courses/17866/marine-radio-operator-s-vhf-skill-set>

Phone: 1300 308 233 NB: Not online, 2 days Campus Classroom, face-to-face - cost \$290.

Revision Questions available at:

<http://academic.amc.edu.au/~omc/RevisionQuestionSROCP.html>

The JCU Boating & Diving Office in Townsville carries a limited number of Marine VHF Radio Operators Handbooks, which are available for short-term loan whilst studying.

If you are considering obtaining commercial vessel operator qualifications, such as Coxswain or Master Class tickets, completing the Long Range Operators Certificate of Proficiency (LROCP) or higher, may be more useful for such commercial applications. Discuss with your course coordinator.

Further Information

University of Tasmania – Office of Maritime Communications

<http://www.amc.edu.au/industry/omc>

Handbooks & Revision Questions:

<http://www.amc.edu.au/industry/omc/handbooks-and-revision-questions>

Further information:

Health, Safety & Environment Unit:

Phone - 07 4781 5290

Email – safety@jcu.edu.au

JCU Boating and Diving

Phone – 07 4781 4729

Email - boating.diving@jcu.edu.au