

OPERATOR CERTIFICATES

A ship station may only be operated by a person **holding an appropriate operator certificate.**

Types of certificate

The BIPT organises the exams for the following certificates:

- Restricted radiotelephone operator's certificate (VHF) - pleasure cruising and inland navigation;
- Short Range Certificate (SRC) - pleasure cruising and non-paying passengers;
- Restricted Operator Certificate (ROC) - pleasure cruising and commercial shipping (SOLAS);
- Long Range Certificate (LRC) - (NON SOLAS) vessels, such as pleasure cruising;
- General Operator Certificate (GOC) for ship stations - commercial shipping (SOLAS).

In the table below you can find which types of equipment you are allowed to use with your operator certificate.

	VHF	SRC	LRC	ROC	GOC
Marine VHF radiotelephone	X	X	X	X	X
Portable marine radiotelephone	X	X	X	X	X
NAVTEX	X	X	X	X	X
EPIRB 406 MHz		X	X	X	X
SART		X	X	X	X
Marine VHF-DSC radiotelephone		X ¹	X ¹	X ²	X ²
Marine MF/HF radiotelephone			X		X
Marine MF/HF-DSC radiotelephone			X		X
Inmarsat			X ³		X
AIS	X	X	X	X	X

VHF-DSC: ¹SRC class D

²:ROC GOC class A

³ Only Inmarsat-C

Check your certificate's validity before your departure.

The VHF and SRC certificates issued between 31 May 2012 and 1 January 2019 remain valid indefinitely.

The certificates issued after 1 January 2019 have a 5 year validity.

Certificates on which no final date is indicated keep their indefinite period of validity, provided no changes are needed, such as a change of address, etc.

EXAMS

Registrations must be received by e-mail to examen@bipt.be at least 3 weeks before the day of the exam.

Per exam the registration fee is €33.36.

To take the SRC exam you need to have proof of having taken a course offered by a training centre approved by the BIPT.

Attention please! Your participation certificate is only valid for 1 year. In that period you need to pass the exam.

INTERFERENCE

Interference on radio communications can be reported to the BIPT.

- E-mail: ncs-nl@bipt.be
- Tel.: +32 2 226 88 01
(workdays from 8.30 AM to 5 PM)

TRANSFER OF CALL SIGNS

It is no longer allowed to transfer a ship's call sign when that ship is sold.

Nor may the equipment of an old ship be transferred to a new ship anymore. Every new ship is assigned a new call sign.



Belgian Institute for Postal Services
and Telecommunications

Introduction of the marine radiotelephone VDES channel plan



BIPT Maritime Department

Marine radio licences management,
Certificates and Exams
+32 2 226 88 88
maritime@bipt.be
www.bipt.be

Belgian Institute for Postal Services and Telecommunications
Ellipse Building C
Koning Albert II laan 35 bus 1
1030 Brussels

VDES

Following the international agreements on the use of marine VHF radiotelephones the VDES (VHF Data Exchange System, the new channel plan that introduces digital channels) will be implemented as from 1 January 2023. As a consequence. **EVERY marine radiotelephone** will have to be programmed in accordance with that new frequency plan **between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023**.

As from 1 January 2023 the VDES channels may no longer be used for analogue voice communications. You should therefore make an appointment with a repairer or installer in time.

In de onderstaande tabel kan je terugvinden hoe jouw marifoon dient gebruikt te worden.

Channel	Use until 31/12/2022	Use from 01/01/2023
24	Duplex	Digital - channel is blocked for analogue voice communications
25	Duplex	Digital - channel is blocked for analogue voice communications
26	Duplex	Satellite - channel is blocked for analogue voice communications
27	Duplex	Channel is split in - 1027 (voice communications allowed), and - 2027 (analogue voice communications forbidden)
28	Duplex	Channel is split in - 1028 (voice communications allowed), and - 2028 (analogue voice communications forbidden)
84 & 85	Duplex	Digital - channel is blocked for analogue voice communications
86	Duplex	Satellite - channel is blocked for analogue voice communications

More information about the VDES introduction can be found in the communication of 30/08/2022 [on the BIPT website:](https://www.bipt.be/consumers/publication/communicatie-on-vdes-programming-of-marine-radiotelephones)
<https://www.bipt.be/consumers/publication/communicatie-on-vdes-programming-of-marine-radiotelephones>

SIMPLEX AND DUPLEX CHANNELS

When buying a new device you should check whether it has already been programmed for VDES use. In case of the most recent equipment there is no problem: the channels have already been adapted to the VDES.

In the VDES the duplex channels are split into two simplex channels and one duplex channel.

In order to avoid unsafe situations and interruptions in communications it is of great importance to choose the correct channel. Let's take channel 19 as an example. On the display it should read as "19", for then you are sure it is a duplex channel. Indications such as "1019" and "2019" refer to simplex channels.

Please note that it is allowed for the indication "10" and/or "20" to be smaller than the actual channel.



EXTRA MARINE RADIOTELEPHONE CHANNEL CHANGE FOR MARINAS

Because of the VDES implementation and following coordination with the Dutch authorities it has been agreed to use **channel 31** for the marina authorities.

In order to contact a marina equipped with a marine radiotelephone, you will also have to have this channel programmed. The use of that channel was formerly forbidden in Belgium.



RADIO STATION LICENCE

The former yellow or green licence has been replaced by a white A4 form bearing the new BIPT logo.

The form is titled 'SCHEEPSRADIOVERGUNNING - AUTORISATION DE STATION DE RADIOCOMMUNICATION SUR UN NAVIRE' and 'GENEHEMIGING FÜR SCHIFFSRADIOSTELLE - SHIP RADIO LICENCE'. It contains fields for: Naam van het schip / Nom du navire / Schiffname, Thuishaven / Port d'attache / Heimathafen, Licentiehouder / Titulaire de la licence - Genehmigungsinhaber / Licence holder, Adres / Adresse / Anschrift / Address, and Schip - Navire - Schiff - Ship. Below these are fields for Reserveren / Indicatief / Signal and Register / Registration. A table at the bottom lists station technologies: VHF (FIXED, PORTABLE, FIXED-DSC, PORTABLE-DSC), RADAR (X-BAND, S-BAND), and EPIRB (150 MHz (No MMSI), 121.5 MHz).

Persons who still have an old version risk being sanctioned in case of an inspection.

To have an existing licence replaced you should fill out the application form and return it to migration.crm.bmr@bipt.be.

This is free of charge.

The form is available online on the BIPT website: www.bipt.be -> Radio frequencies -> Private use / Hobby -> Maritime, then scroll down to *Documents* and click on Application form for maritime radio licence.

The following document(s) should be added:

- For pleasure cruising: the registration document of the FPS Mobility;
- For commercial inland navigation: the tonnage certificate and the ENI document;
- For commercial navigation and offshore fishing: the certificate of registry of the FPS Mobility.

If you apply for a radio station licence for the first time or if you want to adapt a licence already migrated, your application should be sent to Maritiem@bipt.be.