



RYA VHF SRC RADIO COURSE DETAILS

Course Summary

Approximately 10 hours of tuition over 1 day. About 7 hours in our classrooms and 3 hours of pre-course reading that we supply (via Link Below).

Basic Details

Location	Building 11 Shamrock Quay (see map below) William Street, Southampton SO14 5QL
Start Time	Registration 9.00-9.20am - Course Start 9.30am
Finish Time	Approximately 5.00pm Exam 5.00pm to 6.30pm
Duration	1 Day
Lower Age Limit	12 Years (16 Years For Operators License Exam)
Car Parking	On Site (see map below)

Pre Course Preparation & Requirements

3 hours pre-reading detailed below but no prior radio experience is required.

Course Content

The Short Range Certificate is the minimum qualification required by law, to control the operation of VHF and VHF Digital Selective Calling (DSC) equipment, on any British flagged vessel voluntarily fitted with a radio. This includes both fixed and handheld equipment using International channels.

Ability After Course

The Basics of Radio Operation, including the use of correct frequencies (channels) to be used

Distress, Emergency and Medical Assistance Procedures

Making Ship to Shore communication

Digital Selective Calling (DSC) using simulators

Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)

Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB)

Search and Rescue Transponders (SART)

Exam & Certification

Those wishing to sit the short written and oral exam, which upon successful completion of, you will be issued with the " United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Certificate of Competence and Authority to Operate".

The Operator's Licence requires a passport sized photograph.

Please Ensure you bring a Photograph and also your photographic ID with you.

From 19th June 2023 Candidates for the SRC exam are to produce a photo ID certificate or card such as Driving License or Passport, to verify their name, age and that the photograph is a true likeness. Please be aware that the exam can not be conducted by any student who can not produce suitable identification.

Exam Fee

A £70 exam fee/licence applies which is payable directly to the RYA via the link below, if you wish to be examined and obtain the operator's licence.

The exam starts at 5.00pm and finishes at approximately 6.30pm.

[Please pay for your exam now via the RYA website.](#)

You can not pay on the day and must bring your printed exam application form with you, that you will receive via email directly from the RYA. Please check your Junk/Spam Folders

Accommodation

Accommodation is not available for any 1 day courses.

Food

No food is provided by SBT on this course. A café selling sandwiches, etc. is located within the marina complex, but **please ensure you have a packed lunch or equivalent** with you, when you arrive for your course.

Car Parking

All visitors to Shamrock Quay are allowed 2 hours of free car parking.

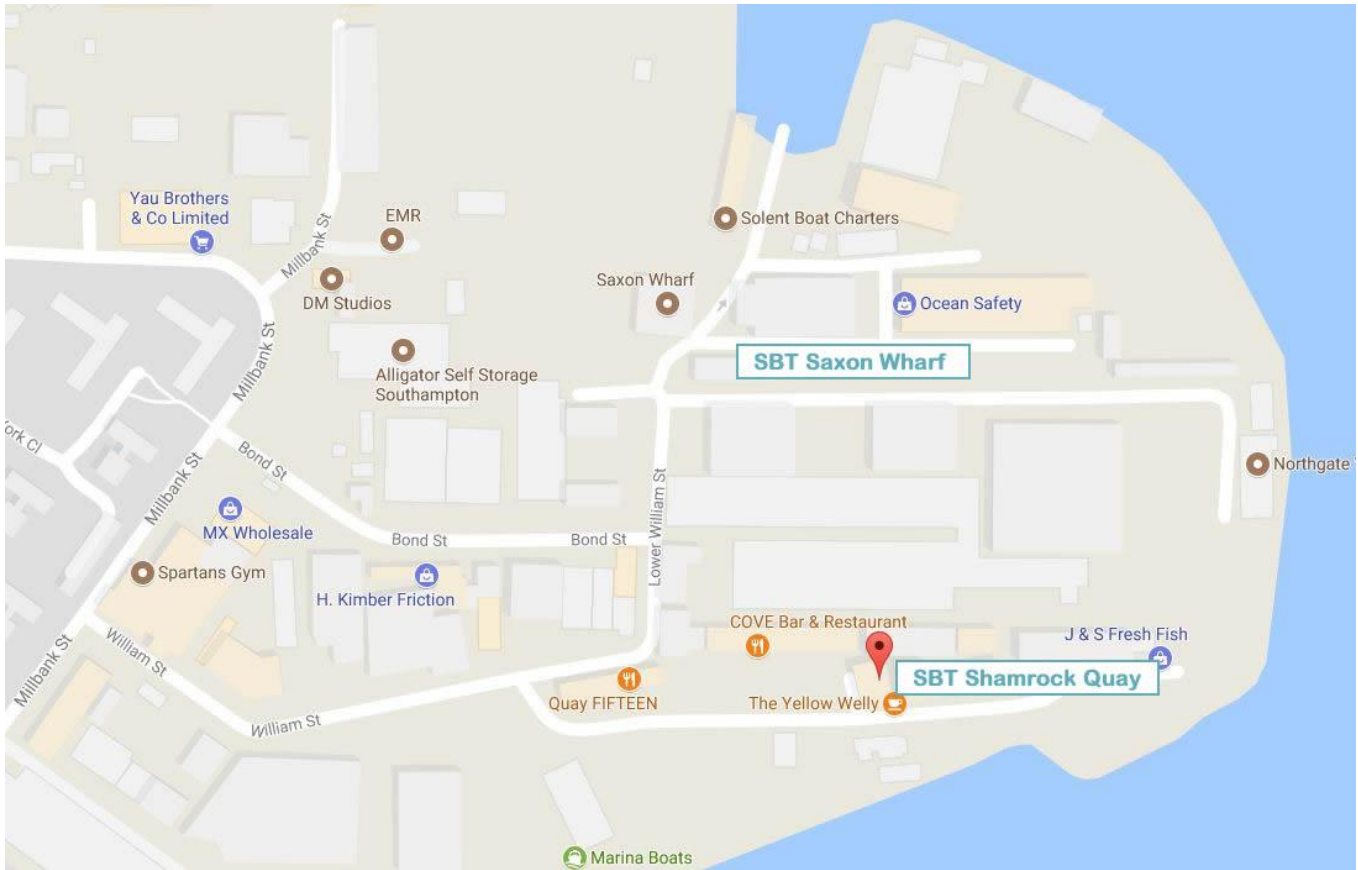
For long stays charges apply as detailed on :-

<https://www.solentboattraining.co.uk/car-parking>

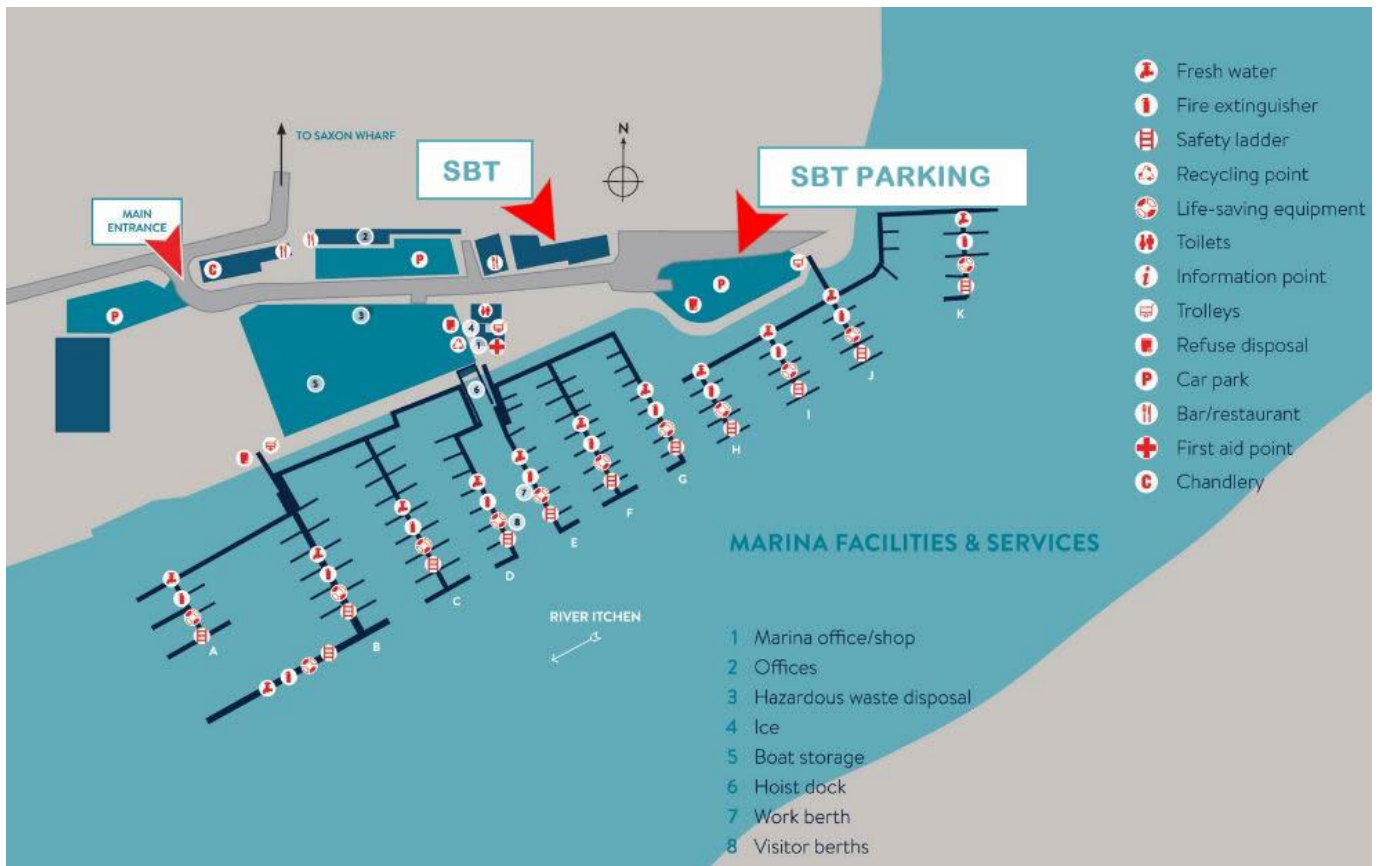
Directions To Our Training Centre

By Train: We are about 1.5 miles from Southampton Centre Railway Station.

By Car: Our address is above, the maps below will help you find our centre.



Shamrock Quay, William Street, Southampton, SO14 5QL



Course Feedback

Please leave us feedback via our forms or QR Code in reception.

Contact Solent Boat Training

Tel 07754 808039

Email : office@solentboattraining.co.uk

Web : www.solentboattraining.co.uk

Pre Course Reading

All students are advised to spend some time learning the material below. Please note that any student wishing to take the short test at the end of the 1 day classroom course, to obtain a radio operator's licence, must spend a minimum of 3 hours studying this material all within the 7 days prior to attendance.

Phonetic Alphabet

A	Alpha		N	November
B	Bravo		O	Oscar
C	Charlie		P	Papa
D	Delta		Q	Quebec
E	Echo		R	Romeo
F	Foxtrot		S	Sierra
G	Golf		T	Tango
H	Hotel		U	Uniform
I	India		V	Victor
J	Juliet		W	Whiskey
K	Kilo		X	X-ray
L	Lima		Y	Yankee
M	Mike		Z	Zulu

Types of Call

Routine Calls – All calls other than Distress, Urgency or Safety calls. DSC alert sent using Menu > DSC Calls > Individual call or similar.

The key phrase with routine calls is “Ship's Business”. Where to meet for lunch, ETA, fuel stops etc are fine. Discussing football scores is not.

Routine calls use Channels 6, 8, 72 and 77.

Non DSC (Digital Selective Calling) routine calls start on Channel 16 then move to a working channel as soon as possible. The caller chooses the working channel as the person receiving the call will not be expecting it so can not listen to see if the working channel is clear.

DSC routine calls include an option for selecting the channel as part of the call set up. This channel is then selected by each radio ready for the call as part of the digital call set up.

Be aware that the Coastguard and some other stations such as port authorities will dictate the working channel regardless of what is suggested by the caller.

Safety Calls – Proword “SECURITE”, used for navigation and weather warnings. DSC Safety Alert sent using Menu > All Ships Calls > Safety or similar.

Safety calls must be addressed to someone, eg “All Ships” or “Solent Coastguard”. Most commonly used by the Coastguard or port authorities to report events such as strong wind warnings, hazards such as floating debris in shipping channels or large vessel movements. Anyone can send a Safety call if appropriate.

Urgency Calls – Proword “PAN PAN”, used for non emergency requests such as mechanical conditions or mechanical breakdown. DSC Urgency Announcement sent using Menu > All Ships Calls > Urgency

Urgency calls must be addressed to someone, eg “All Ships” or “Solent Coastguard” and should contain some indication of the point of the call, for example a boat that has broken down and may be looking for a tow.

Distress Calls – Proword “MAYDAY” DSC Distress Alert sent using the dedicated Distress button.

The internationally accepted definition of Distress situations is:

Grave and imminent danger to life, vessel, aircraft or vehicle. Immediate assistance is required. Distress calls are made by the station that the Distress situation is happening to. All Distress working transmissions start with the proword “Mayday”. The Coastguard will use the prowords “Seelonce Mayday” to clear a channel for distress working, and “Seelonce Feenee” when distress working has ended.

The Distress Call

This is the Distress call for a motorboat called “Flam” with unique call sign MABC8 and MMSI 232004876. To aid clarity it is a good idea to have radio procedure cards by your radio including a template distress call. The MCA frequently have waterproof procedure stickers available for free on their website.

Mayday, Mayday, Mayday

This is Motor Vessel Flam,Flam,Flam

Call Sign MABC8, MMSI 232004876

Mayday Flam, Call Sign MABC8, MMSI 232004876

In position 50°42.07' N 001° 12.42' W

Fire On Board

I Require Immediate Assistance

Eight Persons On Board

All Wearing Lifejackets & Abandoning To Life Raft

Over

It may help to use the following acronym to ensure all information is included in the distress call:

M ayday

I dentify yourself – Name, Call sign and MMSI number

P osition – Either latitude and longitude, or distance and bearing eg half a mile N of Cowes

D istress type – eg fire, sinking etc

A ssistance – Immediate assistance required

N umber of people on board and any special requirements. Remember to include yourself!

I nformation – Any other relevant information eg, lifejackets are worn etc

O ver.

Urgency Call

Three calls of Pan-Pan in radiotelephone communications is used to signify that there is urgency on board a boat, ship, aircraft, or other vehicle but that, for the time being at least, there is no immediate danger to anyone's life or to the vessel itself. Again, to avoid having to memorise the Call Sign, MMSI number or overall format a radio procedure card near the radio is recommended.

Pan-Pan, Pan-Pan, Pan-Pan

Solent CG, Solent CG, Solent CG

This Is Sailing Yacht Dab,Dab,Dab

Call Sign M4GHQ MMSI Number 235899983

My Position 51°44'.71N 001°04'.32E

I Have An Injured Crew Member And Request Medical Advice

Over

UK VHF Channels and Usage

In the United Kingdom there are approximately 57 VHF channels available plus the private channels for use by yacht clubs and emergency services. 3 channels are dedicated to digital data, Channel 70 for DSC data and 2 channels for Automatic Identification System services.

The UK uses the "International Frequency" plan. Like virtually all other countries throughout the world, the United Kingdom has dedicated many of these channels to specific uses.

Distress, Safety and Calling Channels

Channel 16 – Distress, Safety & Calling Channel 16 is the international distress, safety and calling radiotelephony channel. Where it is necessary to call a station on Channel 16, other than in cases of Distress or Urgency, both stations should switch to an alternative channel as soon as possible. All calls on Channel 16 should be kept brief and should not exceed one minute, when not concerning distress, urgency or safety.

For a call between ship stations an inter-ship channel should be used, such as Channels 6, 8, 72 or 77. For a call to a coast station the station's assigned channel should be used.

Channel 70 - Digital Selective Calling

All DSC (Digital Selective Calling) alerts are sent via digital data transmissions on Channel 70 by the radio equipment once the relevant buttons have been pressed. This digital data allows additional information such as the vessel name, radio MMSI and position to be received by DSC capable radios adding an extra layer of functionality.

It must not be used for voice communications.

It is strongly recommended that any newly purchased equipment be DSC equipped.

Channel 13 – Bridge to Bridge

This channel is used for bridge to bridge voice communications under GMDSS. It will normally be monitored by commercial vessels if a danger of collision exists. This channel is one of the few, under GMDSS that can be used without a preceding DSC alert on Channel 70.

Channels 6, 8, 72, 77 – Inter-Ship

Inter-ship channels are for communications between ship stations. Routine communications should be restricted to Channels 6, 8, 72 and 77. However, if these are not available, the other channels in the chart in the book, marked as being available for inter-ship working, may be used.

Channels 10, 11, 12, 14 - Port Operations

Certain channels have been set aside, by international agreement, for use in the Port Operations and Ship Movement services. These are assigned to a user, such as a port or oil terminal where the safe movement of ships is important. The channels assigned to particular users are published in the Admiralty List of Radio Signals. It is important not to use these channels for other purposes if they have been assigned locally or if they have not been set aside for Inter-Ship working.

Be aware that some harbour masters and smaller ports use other channels for port operations as listed in the Almanac or online.

Channels 15, 17, 75 and 76 – Guard Band.

These frequencies are either side of Channel 16's frequency. To prevent interference on Channel 16 these channels are restricted to low power (1w) for transmitting. 15 and 17 are designated for on board working, 75 and 76 are designated for port operations and should only be used at the request of the port authority.

Channel 67 – UK Small Craft Safety

Used by HMCG as a small ship safety channel in the UK only. For routine communications, i.e. anything not related to distress working, this channel should be used to contact the Coastguard directly without using Channel 16.

Private & Marina channels

These channels have been set aside by the United Kingdom administration, for matters relating to mooring, berthing and race control.

Channel 80 - Channel 80 is used for contacting marinas in the UK. Most UK marinas can only be contacted on this channel as shore based radio licences are issued on a channel by channel basis and require the licensee to pay an annual fee for each channel used. Any variation on this is listed in the Almanac or online.

Channel 80 is a duplex channel, meaning it has two separate frequencies, one for outgoing and one for incoming transmissions. Type D radios can only receive one of these frequencies, meaning that only one side of the conversation is heard. For this reason, take at least a minute to ensure that the channel is not in use before transmitting.

Channel M and M2

Channels M and M2 are UK channels and should only be used in UK territorial waters.

They are used by sailing clubs for race control and safety communications. As they are usually used by shore based radios, as well as ship based radios and therefore incur an annual fee. Their use is restricted to the Club that holds the licence.

Channel M1 may be shown as P1 or 37A depending on the radio equipment. M2 may be shown as P2.

Further information

The channels between 29 – 59 are private channels for specific licensed use, e.g. by the RNLI or Coastguard. Radio equipment needs to be reprogrammed to receive these channels and users need to hold a licence specific to the channel being used. Unauthorised access to these channels can be subject to a fine from Ofcom for breach of licensing.

Channels 00 and 0 are used exclusively by search and rescue and emergency services in the UK, and similarly to channels 29 – 59 radios should only be able to access channels 00 and 0 if properly authorised and licensed to do so. Again, unauthorised use is illegal and may be subject to a fine from Ofcom.

[Please Pay for your Exam Now via the RYA's Website Now!!](#)

