



15th June 2020

AMERC ADVICE TO CENTRES OFFERING GMDSS COURSES AND EXAMS UNDER COVID 19

Please distribute this notice to any colleagues who may not be accessing their regular inboxes at this time

AMERC has been approached for advice to offer course providers and examiners running GMDSS courses under Covid 19.

There are considerable variations in course facilities at each centre, some use full simulation, some use full hardware, and some fall in-between the two.

Accordingly AMERC does not consider itself in a position to offer blanket advice on the matter as there are too many variables and enforcement is not possible under the lockdown. Neither does AMERC have the expertise to do so.

If any centre wishes to commence running courses again it must be understood that **this will be entirely at the discretion of the course provider** and is not AMERC's decision or responsibility in any way.

All active centres however MUST comply with all of their Government guidelines and instructions which vary from country to county even within the UK. Be aware these can change daily. It is entirely the responsibility of the centre to ensure full compliance at all times. Proper risk assessments must have been conducted in advance and appropriate measures taken.

Regarding examinations and examiners risk; this must be at the discretion of the examiner alone who should conduct his/her own risk assessment at whichever centre they will be conducting exams. Some centres may claim to be "fully Covid 19 compliant", however no examiner should put himself/herself at risk under any circumstances. If they are unhappy or unsure about a centre then it may be an idea to contact the centre in advance to ascertain what the safety precautions in place are and decide if they will be happy with them. AMERC does not have the expertise nor the authority to insist an examiner attends; it is the decision of the examiner alone.

It is strongly suggested that Centres research thoroughly what the Covid 19 requirements are in order to run a course and take advice from several sources before making a decision. There could be considerable legal and financial implications if these requirements are not followed which your centre's insurance may not cover.

ASSOCIATION OF MARINE ELECTRONIC AND RADIO COLLEGES LIMITED

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