

POLAR TOURISM QUALIFICATION

Radio & Communications for Polar Operations



DEFINITIONS:

- Scope:** Outlines who the test is for.
- Element:** Outlines the overall **skill set** to be tested.
- Range:** The **specific skills** to be examined. An examination **may or may not** include all of the range items. It is at the discretion of the assessor if the assessee shows confidence and ease in other range items as to whether they examine them or not.
- RCC:** Any external awards equivalent to or above the standard. Logged experience and endorsement. See **RCC** and **Cross-credit** matrices.

SCOPE:

Radio Operations is aimed at all field staff/operators working in polar regions shore-based or on a ship. It is a basic safety management competency that all field staff should have.

- Special Notes:*
- i. Range – Very High Frequency (VHF), or Ultra High Frequency (UHF), using base or hand-held equipment. It is an organizations responsibility to specify prior to an assessment which radio/s and frequencies are to be tested. A note is made by the assessor what was tested for the candidates Pro-file.*
 - ii. Indecent language over the radio could be prosecuted by the nation involved.*
 - iii. Different organizations will have different protocols and use of international standards.*

ELEMENTS & PERFORMANCE CRITERIA:

Element 1 – Use, maintain and understand communication protocols with a VHF and/or UHF radio.

- 1.1 Understand the advantages and limitations of VHF and UHF communications systems.**
Range: Environmental conditions, geography, technology.
- 1.2 Use the control features of a given radio.**
Range: Turn radio on/off, use squelch, lock and unlock channel features, change channel, change power, PTT button.
- 1.3 Radio care.**
Range: Charging, cleaning, disassemble aerial, remove battery and check contacts for corrosion, display method/s of hands free carry.
- 1.4 Messages are sent and received using radio protocol as required by the organisation.**
Range: Speaks clearly, releases talk button after speaking, international radio protocol, phonetic alphabet used and understood.
- 1.5 Messages are communicated or relayed under difficult conditions.**
Range: Understands range and function relative to distance and obstacles poor radio reception or difficult environmental conditions (noise, rain, snow, wind), use of phonetic alphabet; (evidence of two difficult conditions is required).
- 1.6 For ship based operations – use and protocol of Bridge radio.**
Range: As per 1.2, 1.4 but with the vessels Bridge radio.
- 1.7 For operations with a Base Station and repeaters.**
Range: As per 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4.

Element 2 – Use a satellite telephone.

- 2.1 Demonstrate an understanding of the range and limitations of a satellite telephone for your given location.**
Range: Understands how a satellite telephone works, the range and function relative to curvature of the earth and geography, temperature and operating strategies.
- 2.2 Demonstrate a call to a given number.**
Range: Antennae oriented, correct key protocol and country number of home office, finishing, powering off.
- 2.3 Demonstrate satellite telephone problem solving.**
Range: Battery power, check and remove battery, antennae connections, service strength.

DATE	REVIEWERS
1/4/17V1, v2	Industry personnel
8/5/17V3	Graham Charles, Alex McNeil