



**POLAR  
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## POLAR QUALIFICATION

# Communications for Polar Operations

*2022 Edition*

### 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.

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

- Special Notes:*
- i. *It is the Assessors responsibility to specify prior to an assessment which radio/s and frequencies are to be tested.*
  - ii. *Different organizations will have different protocols and use of international standards..*

**PREREQUISITES:** Nil

**CROSS CREDIT:** Any internationally recognized qualifications that include these components to the level of the Scope or higher. See Cross Credit Matrices.

## ELEMENTS & PERFORMANCE CRITERIA:

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

#### 1.1 Understand the advantages and limitations of VHF or 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 able to be 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.

### 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.

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DATE	REVIEWERS
2016	Prepared by Graham Charles
1/4/2017	Industry personnel
8/5/2017	Graham Charles, Alex McNeil
14/5/2018	Qualifications Review Meeting
20/5/2019	Qualifications Review Meeting
26/3/20	Qualifications Review Meeting
2021	Qualifications Review Meeting
2022	Qualifications Review Meeting