Maritime VHF Operator's Certificate

A Maritime VHF Operator's Certificate (MVOC) is required under New Zealand law by anyone who operates a marine VHF radio — on a family boat or at work. Students complete the course online in their own time, and earn five NZQA Level 3 credits alongside the certificate.

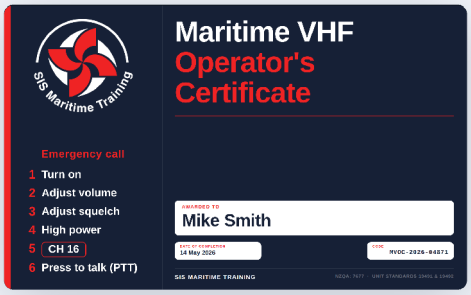
Most marine VHF use in New Zealand is recreational rather than commercial. More than 1.5 million recreational boats are in use in New Zealand and around 40 percent of kiwis go boating each year.

CREDITS	FEE	DELIVERY	START
5	$200	Online	Anytime
Level 3	incl GST	Self-directed study	No fixed intakes

01 / Overview

This course covers the skills required to operate marine VHF confidently and legally. It is delivered entirely online, so students work from anywhere they can get online: in class, at home, in the boarding house, or on the school bus. Students begin whenever it suits them and work at their own pace.

SIS is the preferred maritime training provider for many of the largest fleet operators in New Zealand, including Sanford, NZ King Salmon, RealNZ, Clearwater Mussels, Aroma Mussels and Cougar Line, as well as independent fishing companies.



Students receive an endorsed digital card, sized to match a New Zealand driver licence and carried on a phone.

02 / Course detail

Course topics

- Functions and operations of marine VHF
- Procedures for routine calling
- Initiating and responding to emergency calls
- Pro-words and the phonetic alphabet
- Managing distress, urgency and safety communications
- EPIRB purpose, operation and registration

Who it suits

- Any student whose family has a boat, or is interested in boats, fishing or diving
- Rowing, sailing, waka ama, surf lifesaving and kayaking
- Outdoor Education, including sea kayaking and coastal programmes
- Marine and aquaculture programmes, trades academies

Teaching method Online and self-directed. The course includes a VHF radio simulator, and is also available as group tutor-led training.

03 / Certification and reporting

UNIT STANDARD 19491	Demonstrate knowledge of using VHF marine radio and an EPIRB — Level 3, 3 credits
UNIT STANDARD 19492	Operate a marine radio in the MF, HF and VHF bands — Level 3, 2 credits
CONSENT & REPORTING	SIS Training holds consent to assess both standards and reports unit standard achievement directly to NZQA. Verifiable on NZQA's register: nzqa.govt.nz/providers/nqf-accreditations.do?providerId=767747001
ENROLMENT	Students can be enrolled individually or as a cohort through our student management system. There is no minimum number and no minimum age — the course is available to students at any year level.
STAFF TIME	Minimal: the course features audio and video alongside a VHF radio simulator, which supports a range of learning needs. SIS reports achievement to the school and NZQA.
OTHER COURSES	Maritime Restricted Radiotelephone Operator's Certificate (MRROC); Maritime NZ Skipper 2NM licence; Maritime NZ Skipper Restricted Limits (New Zealand Certificate in Domestic Maritime Operations, Level 4).

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