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To all Offshore Duty Holders/Vessel/MODU Operators:

12 July 2024

There has been some recent discussion around the use of GMDSS Operator Certificates within the UKCS as an acceptable means of compliance for asset radio operators & HLO's in place of holding a UK CAA Radio Operators Certificate of Compliance (ROCC) i.a.w. CAP437 paragraph 6.39, which states:

6.39 Offshore Radio Operators, HLOs, Helideck Assistants and other persons who operate VHF aeronautical radio equipment are required to hold a UK CAA Offshore Aeronautical Radio Station Operator's Certificate of Competence (ROCC). Further information can be found firstly on the CAA website 'Radio Operator's Certificate of Competence' and additionally in CAP 452 'Aeronautical Radio Station Operator's Guide' and CAP 413 'Radiotelephony Manual'.

After consultation with the UK CAA, the following statement has been issued by the CAA Flight Operations Policy Department:

Radio Operators Certificate of Competence (ROCC) are issued by the UK CAA in accordance with the requirements contained in the UK Air Navigation Order (ANO), holders of such certificates are required to be familiar with the standard phraseology contained in CAP413 – 'Radiotelephony Manual' which is the standard phraseology used for all aviation. This phraseology is significantly different to that used by operators of marine vessels and holders of the GMDSS certificate, therefore no exemption to the requirements will be granted to holders of the GMDSS certificate towards the written and practical examination requirements for the issue of an ROCC Offshore Communication Service (OCS). All radio operators and Helideck Landing Officers (HLO) operating on a ship within UK airspace and territorial waters are required to hold an ROCC (OCS) issued by the UK CAA in order to use the Radio Telephony.

With immediate effect all mobile offshore units/vessels should ensure that radio operators and HLO's using aviation radio telephony equipment hold a valid UK CAA Radio Operators Certificate of Competence (ROCC) as per the above statement i.a.w. the Air Navigation Order.

During inspection by HCA; vessels with radio operators and/or HLO's not holding a valid ROCC cannot be issued a Helideck Landing Area Certificate and as a result should not accept aircraft to that mobile offshore units/vessel until the radio users are properly trained.

Regards

For and behalf of HCA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Wildgoose', written over a horizontal line.

Graham Wildgoose
Technical Director