

WHO NEEDS A COMMERCIAL RADIO LICENSE?

Radio Operations

You need a commercial radio operator license to operate the following:

- Ship radio stations if:
 - the vessel carries more than six passengers for hire; or
 - the radio operates on medium or high frequencies (SSB);
or
 - the ship sails to foreign ports; or
 - the ship is larger than 300 gross tons and is required to carry a radio station for safety purposes.
- Coast stations which operate on medium or high frequencies, or operate with more than 1,500 watts of peak envelope power.
- Aircraft radio stations, except those that use only VHF frequencies on domestic flights.
- International fixed public radiotelephone and radiotelegraph stations.
- Coast and ship stations transmitting radiotelegraphy.

You do NOT need a commercial radio operator license to operate the following:

- Coast stations operating on VHF frequencies with 250 watts or less of carrier power.
- Ship stations operating only on VHF frequencies while sailing on domestic voyages.
- Aircraft stations which operate only on VHF frequencies and do not make foreign flights.