

Lifetime GMDSS Permit Information

REMINDER TO HOLDERS OF CERTAIN COMMERCIAL RADIO OPERATOR LICENSES THAT THEY ***ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO FILE RENEWAL APPLICATIONS***

The Commission amended Section 13.15 of its Rules¹ to extend the license terms of certain commercial radio operator licenses from five years to the lifetime of the holder

Specifically, it extended the terms of GMDSS Radio Operator's Licenses (Operator Class Code DO), Restricted GMDSS Radio Operator's Licenses (RG), GMDSS Radio Maintainer's Licenses (DM), GMDSS Operator/Maintainer Licenses (DB), and Marine Radio Operator Permits (MP) to the lifetime of the holder. This rule change took effect on March 25, 2008.

Accordingly, GMDSS Radio Operator's Licenses, Restricted GMDSS Radio Operator's Licenses, GMDSS Radio Maintainer's Licenses, GMDSS Operator/Maintainer Licenses, and Marine Radio Operator Permits with **expiration dates of March 25, 2008 or later no longer need to be renewed**. Even if there is an expiration date on the face of the license, the license is valid for the holder's lifetime, without filing a renewal application (unless the license is subsequently suspended or canceled). If the license expired prior to March 25, 2008, however, the licensee must file an application to renew the license within the five-year grace period for the license term to be extended to the lifetime of the holder. A licensee who fails to renew his or her license within the five-year grace period must apply for a new license and retake the required examination element(s).

Holders of GMDSS Radio Operator's Licenses, Restricted GMDSS Radio Operator's Licenses, GMDSS Radio Maintainer's Licenses, GMDSS Operator/Maintainer Licenses, and Marine Radio Operator Permits are encouraged to verify the status of their licenses in the Commission's Universal Licensing System (ULS) database before filing an application to renew the license. If a licensee desires a hard copy of the license that bears no expiration date, the licensee may simply print out a Reference Copy ([47 CFR 13.15](#))

An application for a replacement license must be made on [FCC Form 605](#) and must include a written explanation as to the circumstances involved in the loss, mutilation, or destruction of the original document. There is a filing fee for a replacement license ([47 CFR 13.17](#)).