Regulations of 17 December 2025 No. 2654 on authorisation to establish and operate radio equipment on board Norwegian ships and mobile offshore units

Legal basis: Laid down by the Norwegian Maritime Authority on 17 December 2025 under the Act of 16 February 2007 No. 9 relating to ship safety and security (Ship Safety and Security Act) sections 9, 11, 16 and 43, cf. Formal Delegation of 16 February 2007 No. 171 and Formal Delegation of 31 May 2007 No. 590, Act of 26 June 1998 No. 47 relating to recreational and small craft sections 23, 26, and 26b, cf. Formal Delegation of 27 November 1998 No. 1095, Formal Delegation of 1 December 1998 No. 4532 and Formal Delegation of 31 May 2007 No. 591.

Section 1. ***Scope of application***
These Regulations apply to radio operators and radio equipment on board Norwegian ships, including recreational craft, and on mobile offshore units.

Section 2. ***Licence***
No radio station shall be established or operated by a private individual or entity without a licence.
The Norwegian Maritime Authority shall issue and maintain a register of licences for ships and mobile offshore units with assigned call signs. Any change of name of a ship or mobile offshore unit, as well as any change of owner or operating company, shall be reported to the Norwegian Maritime Authority.
A licence entitles the holder to operate radio equipment used in the maritime mobile service. Original documentation of the licence shall be kept available on board.
If radio equipment is permanently removed, or if the ship or mobile offshore unit is transferred to a foreign State, the licence holder shall ensure that the identifying information is deleted from the equipment and shall immediately notify the Norwegian Maritime Authority.

Section 3. ***Name***
To obtain a licence, the ship or mobile offshore unit must have a name, to be determined by the owner.
Names that may interfere with radiocommunication will not be approved.

Section 4. ***Certificate***
A radio operator shall hold the relevant certificate of competency for radio operators issued by the Norwegian Maritime Authority or by an entity authorised by the Norwegian Maritime Authority.
Radio operators on recreational craft shall, as a minimum, hold a Short Range Certificate (SRC) demonstrating that the holder meets the knowledge and skills requirements of the Radio Regulations.
For other radio operators within the scope of these Regulations, the requirements laid down in the Regulations 22 December 2011 No. 1523 on qualifications and certificates for seafarers shall apply.
Other persons may operate the radio equipment only under the supervision of a radio operator.

Section 5. ***Use of radio equipment***
Radio transmissions shall at all times be identifiable by the ship's or mobile offshore unit's name, call sign or MMSI number, and shall correspond to the identity stated in the licence.
The radio station is obliged to receive all distress calls and to take immediate action as necessary.
It is prohibited to transmit or disseminate false or misleading distress communications.
The licence holder shall ensure that unauthorised persons do not gain access to the radio station or to the radio correspondence.
A ship or mobile offshore unit in distress may, however, employ any means available to attract attention, indicate its position and obtain assistance.

Section 6. ***Confidentiality of radiocommunication***

It is prohibited to intercept or record radio communications that are not addressed to one's own radio station or intended for the general public.

Should any such communication nevertheless be overheard, its contents must not be reproduced, published or otherwise used.

Section 7. ***Installation and equipment***

Components of the radio equipment shall be installed in accordance with the requirements applicable to the relevant category of ship or mobile offshore unit.

The licence holder shall maintain the radio equipment in good operational condition.

Any modifications to the radio equipment shall be reported to the Norwegian Maritime Authority.

Section 8. ***Documentation***

Documents and publications required under the applicable regulations shall be available at the radio station.

Section 9. ***Supervision***

The Norwegian Maritime Authority is entitled to verify that the radio equipment complies with the terms of the licence.

The Norwegian Maritime Authority may authorise others to carry out such verification.

The Norwegian Maritime Authority may require the person responsible for the radio service on board to be present during the inspection.

The licence holder shall ensure that installed equipment is correctly fitted and properly programmed.

The licence holder shall comply with any orders issued and ensure that any identified deficiencies or non-conformities are rectified within the specified time limit.

Section 10. ***Restrictions on the use of radio equipment and on the licence***

Where required in the interests of national security, emergency preparedness or other public considerations, the use of the radio equipment may be restricted or prohibited.

The licence may be amended, even to the detriment of the holder, where such amendment is a necessary consequence of Norway's international obligations. The same applies where the amendment is a necessary consequence of international harmonisation measures adopted by Norway, of changes in national legislation or where required on other important public grounds.

Amendments as referred to in the first or second paragraph do not entitle the licence holder or any other party a right to compensation from the State.

Section 11. ***Exemptions***

The Norwegian Maritime Authority may grant exemptions from the requirements of these Regulations if one of the following conditions is met:

a. It is demonstrated that the requirement is not essential and that the exemption is considered safe.

b. It is demonstrated that compensating measures will maintain the same level of safety as required by these Regulations.

Section 12. ***Revocation***

The licence may be revoked in the event of serious or repeated breaches of the requirements laid down in these Regulations.

Section 13. ***Entry into force***

These Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 2026.