

ENG3-11.1.6

**IALA World Wide Academy**

**LEVEL 2 – Technician Training**

**Radar Beacons (Racon) Maintenance**

**Module 7 Elements 7.1 to 7.2 (L2.7.1- 7.2)**

**Edition 1**

**October 2012**

***AISM***Association Internationale de Signalisation Maritime ***IALA***

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DOCUMENT REVISIONS

Revisions to the IALA Document are to be noted in the table prior to the issue of a revised document.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Page / Section Revised** | **Requirement for Revision** |
| June 2016 | 3; 6; …. | Minor text amendments and update of Teaching Modules |
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FOREWORD

The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) recognises that training in all aspects of Aids to Navigation (AtoN) service delivery, from inception through installation and maintenance to replacement or removal at the end of a planned life-cycle, is critical to the consistent provision of that AtoN service.

Taking into account that under the SOLAS Convention, Chapter 5, Regulation 13, paragraph 2; Contracting Governments, mindful of their obligations published by the International Maritime Organisation, undertake to consider the international recommendations and guidelines when establishing aids to navigation, including recommendations on training and qualification of AtoN technicians, IALA has adopted Recommendation E-141 on Standards for Training and Certification of AtoN personnel.

IALA Committees working closely with the IALA World Wide Academy have developed a series of model courses for AtoN personnel having E-141 Level 2 technician functions. This model course which is an introduction to radar beacons should be read in conjunction with the Training Overview Document IALA WWA.L2.0 which contains standard guidance for the conduct of all Level 2 model courses

This model course is intended to provide national members and other appropriate authorities charged with the provision of AtoN services with specific guidance on the training of AtoN technicians in the principles of installation and maintenance of radar beacons (Racons). Assistance in implementing this and other model courses may be obtained from the IALA World Wide Academy at the following address:

The Dean

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# PART A - COURSE OVERVIEW

## Scope

This course is intended to provide technicians with the theoretical and practical training necessary to acquire a satisfactory competence in the installation and maintenance of Racons.

## Objective

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will have acquired sufficient knowledge and skill to install and maintain Racons within their organizations.

## Course Outline

This course is intended to cover the knowledge and practical competence required for a technician to properly install and maintain Racons used on fixed and floating aids to navigation. The complete course comprises 5 modules, each of which deals with a specific subject representing an aspect of installing and maintaining Racons. Each module begins by stating its scope and aims, and then provides a teaching syllabus. This is a practical, job-centred course designed to provide trainees with a realistic, hands –on educational experience.

## Table of Teaching Modules

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module Title** | **Time in hours** | **Overview** |
| Introduction to Racon technology | 1.0 | Racon technology, terminology and the type of Racons used in aids to navigation |
| Safety | 1.0 | Safely storing, handling, and working with Racons at height. |
| Inspection, testing and maintenance | 4.0 | Understanding manufacturer’s specification and testing, inspecting, and troubleshooting problems |
| Installation | 2.0 | Wiring, and installing Racons on buoys, ground, structures, lighthouses, and major floating aids |
| Inventory management and disposal | 0.5 | Managing the inventory, and properly disposing and recycling |
| Evaluation | 1.0 |  |
| **Total Hours:** | **9.5** | **Two days** |

## Specific Course Related Teaching Aids

1. This course involves both classroom instruction and AtoN workshop practical demonstration. Classrooms should be equipped with blackboards, whiteboards, and overhead projectors to enable presentation of the subject matter.
2. Trainees should have access to the types of equipment that they will be expected to work with on the job.
3. Relevant electrical equipment drawings should be available to each participant.

## References

In addition to any specific references required by the Competent Authority, the following material is relevant to this course:

* IALA NAVGUIDE
* IALA Recommendation R-101 Maritime Radar Beacons (Racons)
* IALA Guideline 1010 Racon Range Performance
* Technical documentation from Racon equipment manufacturers

# PART B - TEACHING MODULES

## Module 1 – Introduction to Racon Technology

### Scope

This module provides an overview of Racon technology and the various AtoN applications.

### Learning Objective

### Upon completion, the student will understand how Racons work and be familiar with their various applications as an aid to navigation.

### Syllabus

Lesson 1 Racon Technology

1. Physical construction
2. Principles of operation
3. Terminology

Lesson 2 Racon Types

1. 9Ghz Band
2. 3Ghz Band
3. Frequency Agile
4. Advantages and disadvantages
5. Typical uses and applications

## Module 2 – Safety

### Scope

This module describes methods for safely storing and handling Racons.

### Learning Objective

Upon completion, the student will understand how to work with Racons safely.

### Syllabus

Lesson 1 Potential Hazards

1. Working with RF
   1. Dangers of exposure to RF
   2. First aid measures
   3. Dangerous voltages
2. Personal protection
   1. Climatic protection
   2. Body protection
   3. Hand and foot protection
3. Safe handling and storage
   1. Guidelines for transportation and storage
   2. Proper lifting methods

## Module 3 – Inspection and Testing

### Scope

This module outlines the procedures for testing and transporting Racons. Applicable safety procedures from Module 2 will be reinforced during the lessons.

### Learning Objective

Upon completion, the student will be able to properly and safely inspect, test, and troubleshoot problems with Racons.

### Syllabus

Lesson 1 Measurement and Test Equipment

1. Cathode-ray oscilloscope (CRO)
2. Power meter
3. Power sensor
4. Signal generator
5. Circulators
6. Racon test unit
7. Remote working radar

Lesson 2 Programming the Racon

1. Testing Racon using remote ship’s 3 and 9Ghz radar(s)
2. Morse Code programming

Lesson 3 Transporting Racons

1. Demonstrated competence in Racon shipment, including:
   1. Racon shipment accessories required
   2. Racon packaging
   3. Racon shipment procedures

## Module 4 – Installation

### Scope

### This module describes the methods for changing, wiring and installing Racons on buoys, structures, lighthouses and major floating aids. Applicable safety procedures from Module 2 will be reinforced during the lessons.

### Learning Objective

Upon completion, the student will be able to properly and safely install Racons on aid to navigation structures.

### Syllabus

Lesson 1 Inspection Prior to Installation

1. Physical condition
2. Documenting asset details

Lesson 2 Wiring

1. Cable types
2. Connections

Lesson 3 Installation

1. Physical requirements
   1. Racon orientation
   2. Protection of the Racon against site environmental conditions
   3. Working at heights
2. Installing Racons
   1. Racon stands
   2. Dissimilar materials contact
   3. Racon terminal boxes

## Module 5 – Inventory Management and Disposal

### Scope

This module describes the procedures for managing the Racon inventory, and for proper disposal and recycling of Racons.

### Learning Objective

Upon completion, the student will be familiar with the policies and regulations in his or her organization which govern the proper management and disposal of Racons.

### Syllabus

Lesson 1 – Inventory Management

1. Legal requirements and regulations governing management
2. Procedures for life-cycle inventory tracking
3. Racon labelling
4. Inspection records

Lesson 2 – Disposal

1. Legal requirements and regulations governing disposal
2. Methods of disposal
   1. Recycling options
   2. Proper disposal methods
3. Disposal records