

28 Hour ARPA Course for High Speed Craft

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides training in the basic theory and operation of Automatic Radar Plotting Aids (ARPA). It examines the use of ARPA as a labor saving device for the purpose of collision avoidance and voyage plan monitoring, and enhances the decision making capability of those in charge of a navigation watch.

Simulator exercises provide practice in setting up the ARPA, selecting operational alarms, and using the various functions to determine course, speed, closest point of approach, etc. of ships in the area. Hands-on practice gives experience recognizing potential threats and deciding what action to take in accordance with the Rules of the Road to avoid close-quarters situations.

COURSE APPROVAL

This ARPA course is US Coast Guard approved. The person successfully completing the course will:
 (1) satisfy the requirements of 46 CFR 10.205(m)(1) and IMO resolution A.482(XII);
 (2) be considered competent in the *Use of Radar and ARPA to Maintain Safety of Navigation* (STCW A-II/1);
 (3) be considered competent to *Maintain Navigation Through the Use of Radar and ARPA* (STCW A-II/2); and
 (4) be considered competent in using *Modern Navigation Systems to Assist Command Decision* (STCW A-II/2.)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Introduction	Application of COLREG 1972	System Operational Tests	System Maintenance and Emergency Operation
Review of Plotting Techniques	IMO Performance Standards for ARPA	Errors in Displayed Data	Obtaining Information from ARPA Displays
ARPA system display characteristics	Presentation of Target Information	Errors of Interpretation of target data	
Acquisition of Targets	Setting up and Maintaining Displays	Risks of Over- reliance /under-reliance on ARPA	
Tracking Capabilities and Limitations	Obtaining Information from ARPA Displays	Obtaining Information from ARPA Displays	
Processing Delays			
Navigational track keeping with Parallel Indexing			
Obtaining Information from ARPA Displays			

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Mariners enrolling in this course are expected to have completed a course of training in radar observation and plotting and should possess a current Radar Observer endorsement.

An examination is given on the last day of the course. It comprises a written section and a practical section. The written section covers ARPA fundamentals. The practical section is given in a simulator. It tests the students ability to correctly set-up the ARPA radar and interpret and analyze the information obtained from ARPA to maintain safe navigation taking into account the capabilities and limitations of the equipment and the prevailing circumstances and conditions.