ABSTRACT

The *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea* (SOLAS) provides three options to maintain radio communication equipment on board: duplication, shore-based maintenance and on-board maintenance. For the latter there are two different levels. These are translated into the Second and the First Class Radio-electronic Certificate. This thesis looks at the requirements for obtaining those two certificates. These requirements will also be compared with the ones for the General Operator Certificate (GOC). This showes that the differences lie on a theoretical and practical level.

The Second Class Radio-electronic Certificate stands for 'GOC + basic maintenance'. Because basic maintenance is sufficient to perform proper maintenance on board, we focus mainly on this certificate. A survey shows us that shipping companies do not immediately see an added value in a person with such a certificate.

Furthermore, the Nautical Sciences course at the Antwerp Maritime Academy with regard to electronic maintenance will be examined. The current curriculum of the students is compared with the requirements of the Second Class Radio-electronic Certificate. The IMO Model Course 1.31 is used as a guideline. From that research, 50 different points were derived in which the students must be taught even more in order to meet the requirements of the certificate.