

Level 2 Powerboat Handling

Aim

To teach boat handling and seamanship in powerboats. The course may be conducted in a variety of boat types, both planing and displacement, and the certificate issued will be endorsed to show the type of boat in which the training took place.

Syllabus

Section A: Practical

Launch & Recovery

Knowledge of:

Use of a trailer or launching trolley

Consideration of launching and sea conditions, including hazards and obstructions

Number of persons required to launch/recover

Construction, width and condition of slipway

Steep/slippery slipways, beach launching, lee shores

Care of trailer bearings, hitch, lashings, ties, lights and winch

Trailer parking

Can:

Prepare the boat, lines, fenders, safety equipment, fuel tanks, lines and secure gear on board

Prepare to go afloat

Tie relevant knots

Boat handling

Knowledge of:

Loading: effect on handling and performance, effect on balance and trim, CE Plate and manufacturer's recommendation

Handling characteristics of displacement boats, rudder-steered craft and shaft driven vessels

Understands:

Crew members: minimum number in faster craft, keeping a look-out

The importance of boat control in waves and adequate seating to minimise the possibility of back injury

Awareness of other water users, including the effects of wash

Steering, controls, effect of current or tidal stream

Handling a boat at planing speed, trim tabs and power trim

Planing boats: propeller angle and immersion, shallow drive, planing and displacement speed handling, tiller/console steering

Can:

Carry out pre-start checks, engine starting and stopping

Demonstrate the use of an appropriate length killcord at all times

Carry out low speed manoeuvres including: turning in a confined area, effect of wind on bow and holding off

Demonstrate an awareness of the danger of flooding when going astern

Handle a boat at planing speed



Securing to a Buoy

Understands:

Preparation of mooring warp

Use of a boat hook

Direction of approach

Taking way off

Crew communication

Making fast

Procedure when overshooting

Can:

Approach and secure to buoy

Anchoring

Knowledge of:

Types of anchor

Stowage and attachment to boat

Preparation of anchor, chain and warp

Weighing anchor

Understands:

Correct approach in various conditions

Taking way off

Check holding

Depth of water, holding ground, scope required

Can:

Approach and anchor correctly

Weigh anchor correctly

Leaving and coming alongside

Understands:

Preparation and use of lines and fenders, attachment to boat, stowage under way

Speed and angle of approach

Wind effect

Method of approach in tidal stream or current

Can:

Make fast alongside

Use springs

Leave - ahead or astern

Man Overboard

Knowledge of:

Recovery of man overboard

Understands:

Cold shock and immersion hypothermia

How and when to raise the alarm

Can:

Take immediate action

Observe the man overboard

Carry out the correct return with awareness of propeller

Approach and recover the 'man' in the water (small weighted buoy to be used)

Demonstrate both drift down and into wind approach method

Switch engine off



Section B: Theory

Knowledge of:

Types of craft: advantages and disadvantages of different hull forms with respect to sea-keeping ability

Seating arrangements

Stepped hulls

Engines and drives: advantages and disadvantages of outboard, inboard and outdrive units, single and twin-shaft drives, choice and use of fuels

Siting of fuel tanks, fuel lines, batteries, wiring, fire extinguishers

Routine engine maintenance checks, basic fault diagnosis

Close down procedure

Advice to inland drivers about coastal waters

Use and limitations of GPS/chart plotters

Application of local byelaws, especially around commercial shipping

Source of weather information

Understands:

Awareness of other water users

Communication with other craft

Disabled craft

Emergency action, preventing sinking

Adrift - alternative means of propulsion

Actions to be taken by a disabled craft and being towed

Fire precautions and fire fighting

Distress signals, means of issuing distress, DSC and the Mayday call

Advice for vessels in restricted visibility

Can:

Apply IRPCS, principally rules 5, 7, 8, 9, 12-18

Section C: Coastal

Knowledge of:

Byelaws and local regulations

Insurance

Boat registration schemes

Understands:

Pilotage and passage planning

Charts, chart symbols, buoyage systems

Tides and tidal streams

Can:

Use steering and hand-bearing compasses

Apply Section A on coastal waters

Section D: Direct Assessment

The candidate should have the equivalent of at least one full season's powerboat-handling experience

The candidate must complete the practical exercise described below, and satisfactorily answer questions on Section B

Candidates seeking assessment on coastal waters will demonstrate a knowledge and practical application of Section C

Practical Assessment of all Candidates for Level 2

The practical assessment will include demonstration of manoeuvres, including mooring alongside downwind or downtide, turning using warps, man overboard, stop/start engine, planing speed runs, S turns U turns, securing to buoy, turning in own length, and holding off for 30 seconds

Candidates are expected to show that they understand the principles of each manoeuvre. Failure to complete a manoeuvre successfully at the first attempt will not necessarily result in overall failure, but a timely awareness of the need to abort an exercise and try again is important.

