

Boat Master



Experience required prior training: None

Certification required prior training: VHF/SRC

Minimum age required: 16 years old

Equipment requirements: Power boat up to 12 m long, able to plane

Suggested number of training hours: 25 hours (including 6 h practice)

Who can run the training: ISSA Instructor

Who can do the examination: ISSA Instructor

How to submit the application: To authorised ISSA school only

Qualifications obtained after the course: Skipper power boats:

- up to 12 m long (with inboard or outboard engine)
- day time
- conditions up to 6 B degrees
- up to 10 mile from shore

Skills and knowledge required for a Boat Master

Boat's construction

- Knows the basic terminology of a power boat:
 - Bow;
 - Stern, aft, etc.
- Can fill up the water and fuel tanks;
- Can operate the engine;
 - Start it;
 - Switch it off;
 - Check operation of cooling system;

- Check oil level;
- Top up engine oil;
- Check cooling fluid level;
- Top up cooling fluid level;
- Find bottom valves;
- Recognize the breakdown of impeller in cooling system and possibly replace it;
- Check whether alternator is charging batteries when engine is working.
- Knows elementary equipment of yacht:
 - Echo-sounder (location, operation, typical errors);
 - Log;
 - Steering system;

Line and spring handling

- Can combine two lines of the same and different diameter;
- Can make:
 - Bowline;
 - Fast a line on a cleat;
 - Fishermen's bend;
 - Coil mooring lines;
- Can:
 - Pass, take, make fast on cleat, let go mooring lines;
 - Throw mooring lines;
 - Describe different ways of taking a mooring.

Handling fenders

- Can:
 - Fix the fenders using adequate knots;
 - Effectively apply the manouvering fender;

Operating the anchor

- Can:
 - Prepare the anchor for weighing;

- Select safe location for staying at anchor;
- Apply rules for safe anchoring (4xdepth, anchor alarm/watch);
- Distinguish different types of anchors and their characteristics.

Safety

- Can:
 - Perform the safety briefing:
 - How to move on deck;
 - How to apply personal safety equipment (harness, jackstay, etc.);
 - Apply distress signalling equipment (pyrotechnics, flags, etc.);
 - Different methods to send distress signal;
 - Make a distress call with help of VHF;
 - Knows procedures to be applied in restricted visibility;
 - Basic knowledge about SAR procedures (RIB, helicopter);
 - First Aid Kit (location and content).

Handling boat under power

- Can:
 - Launch and recover a boat;
 - Manouver a boat under power;
 - Approach a MOB;
 - Take a berth/leave a berth (longside, stern-to, bow-to);
 - Weigh anchor.

International Rules for Preventing Collisions at Sea

- Knows the navigation shapes and lights:
 - Vessel not under command;
 - Vessel restricted in ability to manouver;
 - Vessel engaged in fishing;
 - Vessel aground;
 - Pilot vessel;
 - Towing set
 - Sailing yacht;
 - Power driven vessel;

- Knows the vessels' priority at sea;
- Knows how to proceed in a „close encounter“ situation;
- Is familiar and complies with the requirement for continues observation;
- Is familiar with other legal obligations of a skipper and crew;
- Is familiar with and understands after-collision rules applicable at sea.

Navigational Aids

- Knows, understands and is able to recognize lateral and smaller channel marks at day time in system IALA A and B;
- Knows, understands and is able to recognize cardinal marks and other navigational marks (safe water mark, isolated danger mark) at day time;
- Is able to use the list of marks and symbols used on charts (eg. Chart 5011);
- Is able to apply navigational publications when planning a port's entry (pilot books, almanacs, navigational plans);
- Knows and can recognize light characteristics of Lighthouses/navigational marks.

Terrestrial navigation

- Knows and understands the basic terms from geography:
 - Latitude;
 - Longitude;
 - Magnetic pole;
 - Geographic pole;
 - Earth's magnetic field;
- Knows the basic types of sea charts, their construction and application:
 - Mercator's projection chart (how is it constructed, spreading of parallels, construction parallel)
 - Passage charts, coastal charts, plans;
- Can read elementary information from a chart that is crucial for safe sailing:
 - Depths;
 - Distance;
 - Navigational obstacles
 - Navigational marks;

- Can read charts/ plot latitude and longitude;
- Knows and understands the phenomenon of Earth's magnetism, variation and deviation;
- Can use a compass;
- Can make use of various bearing lines;
- Has general information about tides and tide-related dangers.

Electronic-based navigation

- Knows how the GPS system works;
- Can enable and check the elementary settings of GPS and plotter;
- Can set and read adequate course on GPS;
- Can plot a position on a chart taken from a GPS;
- Knows what is AIS, ARPA, VTS.

Meteorology

- Knows the Beaufort scale and its meaning for small craft;
- Knows sources of meteo information and how to use them;
- Has the basic knowledge about high, low pressure areas, fronts;
- Can recognize cumulonimbus clouds;
- Understands meteo messages (including those broadcast by radio coastal stations)
- Can take meteo factors into consideration when planning a passage in a coastal zone:
- Has the habit not to leave harbour without valid weather forecast.

Other

- Environmental friendly approach and respect to other yachtsmen and women;
- Knows and applies basic pro-environmental rules;
- Knows and applies social friendly approach at sea and in harbour.