

Recreational Skipper – Mediterranean Sea

Model Course 1.00

2019 Edition

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Course Framework

Aim

This course aims to give trainees the essential education and training to skipper a pleasure yacht less than 24 metres in length overall and up to 35 Nm from safe haven within the Mediterranean Sea, without any restriction on engine/s horsepower.

Objectives

On successful completion of the training and assessment trainees should be able to:

- Take command of a pleasure craft
- Conduct a safe passage plan and maintain a proper navigational watch
- Interpret meteorological reports and transmissions
- Comply with the requirements of the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea
- Respond to emergencies onboard
- Have a thorough knowledge of the relevant Maltese Regulations
- Have a basic knowledge of the mechanical and electrical systems onboard
- Take the necessary precautions to prevent marine pollution

Entry Standards

As a minimum the trainee must:

- Be not less than 18 years of age
- Be in possession of a Maltese Nautical Licence or an international recognized equivalent, for a minimum of 12 months
- Have a valid VHF-SRC certificate or a valid GMDSS ROC/GOC certificate

Assessment

Following successful completion of the course, an oral assessment and a multiple choice examination are to be held by the approved training centre. The assessor shall ensure that a trainee report is issued at the end of the oral assessment detailing the competency of the trainee and final result. The pass mark of the multiple choice test shall be 85% and model question papers are to be approved with the approval package.

Course Certificate

Maritime training centres approved by this Administration shall issue a completion certificate/letter to trainees upon successful completion of the course and demonstration of competence, certifying that the holder has met the standard of competence.

This Administration shall issue an official certificate upon application and payment of the established fees as Recreational Skipper, certifying that the holder is licensed to skipper pleasure crafts less than 24 metres in length overall and limited up to 35 Nm from safe haven within the Mediterranean Sea.

Validity of certificate: 10 years followed by a refresher course for re-validation of licence.

Course Intake Limitations

Trainee/instructor ratio shall not exceed 14:1 at any time whilst practical sessions are to be conducted with the trainee/instructor ratio not exceeding 7:1 at any time, unless an assistant instructor is assisting in the delivery of the course.

Staff Requirements

All instructors must be previously approved by the Merchant Shipping Directorate of the Authority for Transport in Malta in accordance with the Standards for Qualifications of Instructors.

Assessors must meet the requirements for qualifications of instructors and must be approved by the Merchant Shipping Directorate. Instructors delivering a course are not eligible to carry out the assessment for that particular course.

Training Facilities and Equipment

Ordinary classroom facilities including a whiteboard and a screen/overhead projector shall be available for the lectures. In addition, facilities are to be available for chart-work and demonstrations. When making use of audiovisual material such as DVDs, the appropriate equipment is to be used. Furthermore, other equipment or material shall be used to enhance the learning experience of trainees, such as, model of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) buoyage system and engineering components.

Practical/demonstration sessions may be carried out in a classroom or workshop of the training centre. A demonstration of the required knowledge of the life raft session, as listed in the detailed teaching syllabus, may take place in a classroom or workshop. Knowledge of basic fire fighting and skills of how to administer first aid shall be transmitted to the trainee through practical sessions.

Teaching Aids

Any teaching aids including but not limited to handouts, power point presentations, DVDs etc. are to be submitted for approval together with the course material when applying for accreditation as per procedures established in the Standards for Approval of Training Courses.

Publications (suggested)

- Navigational charts
- Chart Symbols NP5011
- Sailing Directions NP45 Vol. 1
- Admiralty ALRS Pilot Services, Vessel Traffic and Port Operations NP286(3)
- Admiralty ALRS Meteorological Observation Stations NP284 Vol. 4
- IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCP)
- Regulations and Notices to Mariners issued by Transport Malta
- Maltese legislation
- International Code of Signals (ICS)
- International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGs)
- International Convention for the safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)
- Basic marine engineering manual
- Mariners Handbook
- IMO Life Saving Appliance Code (LSA Code)
- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)
- International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual (IAMSAR Manual)

Course Outline and Timetable

Timetable

As a minimum, the duration of the practical/demonstration sessions shall be that of 5 hours whilst the duration of the theory sessions shall be that of 19 hours. The total duration of the course shall amount to a minimum of 24 hours.

A timetable must be submitted with the initial documentation as part of the procedure for approval, which must include realistic lunch and coffee break periods.

Course Outline

Course Outline	Approximate Time
1. Passage Planning a. Considerations when planning a passage to a destination outside of Malta b. Routine for navigating a passage outside of Malta c. Passage strategy and planning d. Meteorology e. Port, customs and immigration rules f. Obligations and responsibilities of the skipper on international voyages g. Imray publications h. Failure and back-up of equipment	10 hours
2. Survival Techniques a. Abandonment of vessel b. Survival techniques	2 hours
3. Search and Rescue a. Search patterns	1 hours
4. Introduction to MARPOL	2 hours
5. Basic Engineering	4 hours
6. Practical/Demonstration Session a. Life raft b. Administering first aid c. Basic fire fighting	5 hours
TOTAL	**24 hours**

Detailed Teaching Syllabus

Passage Planning

(10 hours)

- Considerations when planning a passage to a destination outside of Malta
  - Seaworthiness of the vessel (sail and power)
  - Medical, life saving and distress equipment
  - Navigational equipment (Radar, GPS, chart plotter, echo sounder/fish finder, mobile apps and compass, including the difference between the gyro and magnetic compass)
  - Fuel, water and other provisions based on the vessel's capacity and range
  - Vessel limitations (speed, engines and auxiliary engines)
  - Navigating with vulnerable persons

- Routine for navigating a passage outside of Malta
  - Pre-departure checks
  - List of official documents that must be carried onboard
  - Testing and checking of equipment (Radar, GPS, chart plotter, echo sounder/fish finder, VHF/GMDSS equipment, navigational lights, radar reflector, life saving signals, life jackets, life raft, fire fighting equipment, man overboard equipment and first aid kit)
  - Communication with relevant authorities
  - Communication with the next port of call
  - General inspection of the vessel
  - Publications and charts

- Passage strategy and planning
  - Visibility including precautions in restricted visibility
  - Preparation of charts including charts symbols and electronic aids
  - Course laying
  - Use of waypoints and routes
  - Position fixing including the use of Radar and its limitations
  - Visual aids to navigation
  - Keeping a navigational record

- Meteorology
  - Sources of meteorological information
  - Meteorological considerations in planning a short passage
  - Terminology
  - Basic knowledge of highs and lows
  - Atmospheric pressure
  - Cloud types
  - Sea and land breezes
  - Weather patterns
  - Fog

- Port, customs and immigration rules
  - Sources of port, customs and immigration rules
  - Knowledge of interpreting such regulations
  - Knowledge of how to deal with port, customs and immigration officials during onboard visits

- Obligations and responsibilities of the skipper on international voyages
  - The authority of the skipper
  - The legal role of the skipper
  - Chain of command
  - Navigation responsibilities
  - Ensuring seaworthiness
  - Good seamanship
  - Documentation
  - Reporting duty
  - Liability of the skipper

- Imray Publications
  - List of Imray publications and what information can be obtained from them

- Failure and back-up of equipment
  - What equipment is available onboard
  - Getting to the nearest safe haven in case of failure of the primary navigation system

Survival Techniques

(2 hours)

- Evacuation
  - When is it safe to evacuate the vessel?
  - How to send a distress message

- Procedures for abandonment
- Essentials for survival
- Dangers to survivors
- Life rafts *(covered in the demonstration/practical sessions)*

Search and Rescue

(1 hour)

- Basic IAMSAR concepts
- Search patterns
- How to be spotted in water
- What to expect when waiting to be rescued
- Recovery of personnel from water
- Administering first aid *(covered in the demonstration/practical sessions)*
- Basic fire fighting *(covered in the demonstration/practical sessions)*

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)

(2 hours)

- Application of MARPOL
- Brief introduction of each annex
- Record keeping of waste oils, sewage and garbage discharge to shore facilities
- Special areas

Basic Engineering

(4 hours)

- Marine internal combustion engines
- Start up and shut down procedures
- Cooling systems
- Fuel systems
- Batteries
- Generators and starter motor
- Steering gear
- Fuel consumption, estimation and calculations
- Trouble shooting of faults

Practical/Demonstration Sessions

(5 hours)

Life raft

- Demonstration of a life raft in classroom/workshop
- Proper maintenance of life rafts, including correct storage and launching procedures
- Inventory of supplies each life raft should contain and how to use them
- Understand how to board a life raft correctly
- Sea basic survival techniques onboard a life raft, including preserving body heat, communication and morale and how to treat injuries and seasickness
- Keeping yourself safe until help arrives
- Life raft servicing (cleaning, inside and outside inspections, repair work and replacement of life raft equipment)
- Life raft procedure testing
- Markings on a life raft container
- Markings on an inflatable life raft
- Functions of a hydrostatic release unit and how it should be connected

Administering First Aid

- Bleeding, bandaging and application of splints
- The unconscious casualty and positioning
- Resuscitation
- Burns and scalds, and accidents caused by electricity
- Management of shock

Basic Fire Fighting

- Minimise the risk of fire
- Fire detection and maintaining a state of readiness to respond to fire emergencies
- Fight and extinguish fires - use of fire extinguishers and fire blankets