



# Guide to the International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft (International Certificate of Competency 2021)

## Introduction

The International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft was established under resolution No. 40 of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. It is more commonly known as the International Certificate of Competency or ICC.

The certificate provides boat owners and people wishing to charter boats with an internationally recognised document certifying their competence to skipper a boat for recreational use.

In Ireland the certificate is issued to qualified applicants through the offices of Irish Sailing on behalf of the Irish Government.

This guide seeks to explain how people may obtain the certificate.

## Method for applying for The International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft

Certificates will be issued by Irish Sailing office upon receipt of the appropriate application form and subject to the conditions laid down in these guidelines.

### Certificates will only be issued to:

1. Persons who have demonstrated competence to skipper a boat either through;
  - a. holding a certificate of competency listed in the table on page 2,  
OR
  - b. successfully completing the "ICC Assessments" detailed on pages 3 and 4.
2. Persons over the age of 16 years.
3. Persons who have demonstrated that they are physically and mentally fit to operate a pleasure craft.
4. Persons who are Irish Nationals or persons who have an Irish Residential address.

### Type of Craft

The ICC details the type of craft for which the certificate is issued as either sail or motor. Certificates are marked and issued according to the type of craft for which the applicant holds an Irish Sailing certificate of competency (Appendix 1) or in which the direct assessment was conducted. In addition where an applicant has demonstrated the required degree of competency in:

- a sailing boat with auxiliary motor or,
- both sailing boat and motor boats, their certificate may be marked for both sail and motor.

In all cases the certificate is valid for recreational use on vessels up to 80 gross tonnes or 24 meters in length.

### Types of Water

The ICC specifies the type of water the certificate may be used on as either inland or coastal.

- Coastal certificates will be issued to candidates who have demonstrated an appropriate knowledge of the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea (IRPCS).
- Inland certificates will be issued to candidates who have demonstrated an appropriate knowledge of the Code Européen des Voies de la Navigation Intérieure (CEVNI).

Candidates able to demonstrate an appropriate knowledge in both the IRPCS and CEVNI may be issued with a certificate valid for both inland and coastal waters.

Applicants holding Irish Sailing certificates of competency are deemed to have the required knowledge as detailed in the table on page 2. Otherwise methods of assessment for appropriate knowledge of the IRPCS and CEVNI are laid out elsewhere in this guide.

## Fees

There is a fee for the issue, renewal or update of the ICC. These fees are detailed on the application form and are payable upon submission of the form.

## Period of Validity

The ICC is valid for a period of 5 years from date of issue. It may be renewed by application to Irish Sailing.

## Withdrawal of certification

Irish Sailing may withdraw certification from a person where that person's conduct is deemed to have brought the certificate into disrepute. Such cases will be submitted to Irish Sailing Tribunal for adjudication. Details of the terms of reference and operating procedure for the Irish Sailing Tribunal are available separately.

## Organisations authorised to run the ICC Assessments

Irish Sailing Training Centres recognised to run any of the ICC Assessments are listed on the Irish Sailing website. The type of craft they are permitted to run the direct skills assessments in will coincide with those Irish Sailing training schemes they offer. For instance a club or centre listed as an ICC test centre and recognised to run Irish Sailing Powerboat courses may run assessments in powerboats but may not do so in either sail or motor yachts.

## Competency certificates issued by Irish Sailing and how they tie in with the ICC

	Category of ICC that may be issued			
	<i>Motor</i>	<i>Sail</i>	<i>Coastal</i>	<i>Inland</i>
Irish Sailing National Powerboat Certificate.	✓	x	x	* to obtain an Inland category CEVNI test is required
Irish Sailing National Powerboat Certificate + Coastal endorsement	✓	x	✓	
Irish Sailing / IWAI Certificate of Competency in Motor Cruising on Inland Waterways	✓	x	x	
Irish Sailing Helmsman's Certificate (Motor)	✓	x	✓	
Irish Sailing Day Skipper Certificate (Sail)	✓	✓	✓	
Irish Sailing Day Skipper Certificate (Motor)	✓	x	✓	
Irish Sailing Yachtmaster Coastal (Sail)	✓	✓	✓	
Irish Sailing Yachtmaster Coastal (Motor)	✓	x	✓	
Irish Sailing Yachtmaster Offshore (Sail)	✓	✓	✓	
Irish Sailing Yachtmaster Offshore (Motor)	✓	x	✓	
Irish Sailing Advanced Sailing Skills & Irish Sailing National Powerboat Certificate	✓	✓	✓	
Irish Sailing Dinghy, Keelboat or Catamaran Instructor	✓	✓	✓	

*People holding certificates that are not listed above, but which they think may be of an equivalent standard, should contact the Irish Sailing to see if they can be accepted.*

**Please note: we cannot accept RYA certificates (see the FAQ section).**

## Further Information

Further information including application forms can be obtained on the Training section of Irish Sailing's website at [www.sailing.ie](http://www.sailing.ie) or from your local ICC Test Centre. A list of these ICC Test Centres may be obtained on the website under the "list of IRISH SAILING course providers" section. Alternatively you can call Irish Sailing on +353(0)12800 239 or e-mail [reception@sailing.ie](mailto:reception@sailing.ie).

## Details of ICC Assessments

### **Direct assessment for coastal endorsement**

*The following test applies only to people who wish to obtain an ICC for coastal use and who either;*

- 1) *Do not hold one of the Irish Sailing certificates of competency detailed in Appendix 1.*
- 2) *Hold the Irish Sailing National Powerboat Certificate without the Coastal endorsement.*
- 3) *Hold the Irish Sailing / IWAI Certificate of Competency in Motor Cruising on Inland Waterways*

#### **A person must;**

- Be able to identify the navigation lights and shapes to be shown on their own vessel.
- Be able to identify the following from the lights displayed at night ;
  - power driven vessel, sailing vessel, vessel at anchor, tug and tow, vessel trawling, vessel fishing (not trawling), vessel restricted in its ability to manoeuvre, vessel aground.
- Be able to identify the following from the shapes displayed during the day;
  - Vessel at anchor, tug and tow, vessel trawling / fishing, vessel restricted in its ability to manoeuvre, Vessel aground.
- Be able to identify the following from sound signals used in restricted visibility; Power vessel underway, power vessel making way, sailing vessel underway, vessel at anchor, vessel restricted in its ability to manoeuvre.
- Be able to identify, by day and by night, and describe the significance of, the bouys of the IALA system.
- Be able to identify on a chart, and describe the operation of, traffic separation schemes.
- Be able to describe what information should be obtained prior to entering or leaving a port and where this information may be obtained.
- Be able to identify on a chart, and describe the significance of, charted depths, drying heights, and other common navigation features and hazards.
- When given two or more crossing bearings and or latitude and longitude, be able to plot a position on a chart.
- Be able to determine the correct compass course to steer between two points allowing for leeway and tidal currents.
- Using a tide table, be able to determine the time of high and low water for a standard port.
- For a position on the coast or in a channel adjacent to a primary port, be able to estimate the time and direction of maximum and minimum tidal flow.

#### **Method of assessment**

Candidates undertaking this assessment will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of the above section by way of a written or oral assessment using assessment papers and guidelines issued by Irish Sailing for this purpose.

### **Direct assessment for inland endorsement**

*The following test applies only to people who wish to obtain an ICC for inland use.*

#### **A person must;**

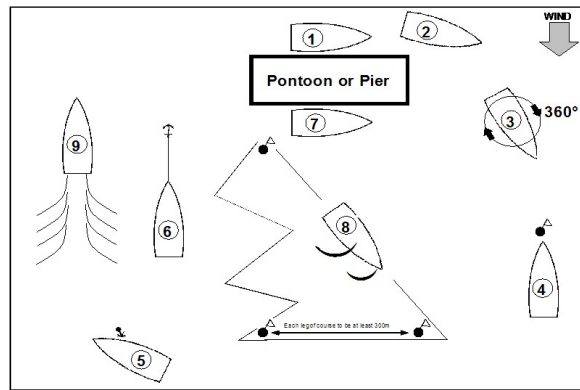
- Be able to identify where to obtain information on CEVNI.
- Be able to identify the navigation lights and shapes to be shown on their own vessel.
- Be able to identify the following from the lights displayed at night ;
  - power driver vessel, sailing vessel, Vessel at anchor, tug and tow, fishing vessel, vessel restricted in its ability to manoeuvre.
- Be able to identify the following from the daymarks displayed during the day;
  - Stationary vessel (made fast to the bank, at anchor or grounded), vessel with limited manoeuvrability, tug and tow, vessel having priority.
- Be able to identify the the following sound signals;
  - I wish to overtake to port / starboard, I accept, I do not accept, I will overtake on other side to that initially requested, It is unsafe to overtake.
- Be able to identify the principal signs used in the CEVNI system.
- Be able to identify, and describe the significance of, the bouys and landmarks of the CEVNI system.
- Be able to orientate a chart or map and describe how your position and direction of travel may be established using navigation or other features.

#### **Method of assessment**

Candidates undertaking this assessment will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of the above section by way of a written or oral assessment using assessment papers and guidelines issued by Irish Sailing for this purpose.

# Direct Assessment of Boat Handling Skills.

The following assessments apply to people who do not hold one of the Irish Sailing certificates of competency detailed in Appendix 1.



## Section 1 (Tasks to be completed under power by all craft)

### General

The candidate must at all times during the assessment;  
Demonstrate an awareness of other water users.  
Use a safe and appropriate speed.  
Keep a proper and effective look out.

### 1. Start

The Candidate must;  
Give a safety briefing including use of safety equipment including lifejackets.  
Describe how the forecast weather is likely to affect the conditions afloat.  
Conduct appropriate pre-start checks on the engine(s)  
Start engine and conduct appropriate post start checks.  
Be able to correctly identify the range of the boat with fuel aboard.

### 2. Depart from pier or pontoon

The candidate must be able to describe how to use springs to depart from a lee berth.  
The candidate must safely manoeuvre the boat from its berth. While doing so they must;  
Communicate effectively with the crew.  
Use fenders correctly.

### 3. Turning the boat in a confined space.

The candidate must turn the boat through 360° in a confined space.  
While doing so they must;  
Demonstrate effective use of forward and reverse gears and rudder positions.  
Remain in full control of the boat at all times.

### 4. Pick up a mooring

The candidate must pick up a floating mooring buoy. While doing so they must;  
Communicate effectively with the crew.  
Ensure appropriate preparations are made.  
Use the correct angle and speed of approach  
Ensure the boat is adequately secured to the buoy.  
Depart the mooring in a safe and efficient manner.

### 5. Pick up a Man Overboard

The candidate must pick up a Man Overboard dummy. While doing so they must;  
Communicate effectively with the crew and MOB.  
Ensure visual contact with the MOB is maintained.  
Use the correct angle and speed of approach.  
Make suitable contact with the MOB.  
Recover the MOB into / onto the boat.  
Describe appropriate care of recovered MOB.

### 6. Anchor the boat

The candidate must anchor the boat. While doing so they must;  
Communicate effectively with the crew.  
Ensure appropriate preparations are made.  
Use the correct angle and speed of approach  
Set the anchor.  
Raise the anchor and depart the anchorage in a safe and efficient manner.

### 7. Come alongside a pier or pontoon

The candidate must come alongside a pier or pontoon. While doing so they must;

Choose an appropriate berth.  
Communicate effectively with the crew.  
Ensure appropriate warps & fenders are prepared.  
Use the correct angle and speed of approach.  
Use fenders correctly.  
Ensure the boat is adequately secured to pier or pontoon.  
Stop the engine.

## Section 2 (Tasks to be completed under sail by sailing boats only)

### 8. Sail a triangular course

The candidate must sail the boat around a triangular course that has one leg to windward. While doing so they must;  
Raise and lower the sails safely and effectively.  
Choose sails / sail area appropriate to the conditions.  
Demonstrate awareness of wind direction.  
Trim the sails correctly on each point of sailing.  
Demonstrate awareness of other water users.  
Communicate effectively with the crew.  
Maintain an effective lookout through all manoeuvres.

## Section 3 (Tasks to be completed under motor by high speed motor boats only)

### 9. High speed manoeuvres

The candidate must complete a series of S and U turns while at speed.  
While doing so they must;  
Use a kill-cord if appropriate.  
Choose a suitable area for the manoeuvres.  
Demonstrate awareness of other water users.  
Communicate effectively with the crew.  
Maintain an effective lookout through all manoeuvres.

## Section 4.

In addition to the above, candidates undertaking this assessment will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of the above section by way of an written or oral assessment using assessment papers and guidelines issued by Irish Sailing for this purpose

### A person must;

- Be able to describe how to determine if two vessels are on converging courses.
- Be able to correctly identify who has priority when two vessels meet and describe correct action by both "stand on" and "give way" vessels.
- Be able to identify manoeuvring signals (1,2,3 & 5 short blasts)
- Be able to describe how to use and identify visual distress signals.
- Be able to obtain a weather forecast.
- Be able to identify the principal causes of fire on board a boat and describe how best to avoid them.
- Be able to identify those types of extinguisher suitable for use on board a boat and describe how to use them in fighting an on-board fire.
- Be able to describe action to be taken in case of collision, engine failure, grounding and holing.  
Be able to identify the most likely causes for marine pollution from their boating activities and how to avoid them.