



Small Vessel Operator Certificate

► In the coming months, a revised version of the Marine Personnel Regulations is scheduled to be released and will change the regulatory requirements for navigating personnel certification.

As part of its mandate to monitor regulatory modifications, the Human Resources Sectorial Committee of the Maritime Industry (CSMOIM) wants to keep you abreast of changes to be made to the Regulations where the Small Vessel Operator Certificate is concerned. This column is based on the information available to us in April 2013. Its content is subject to change up until the time the revised version of the Regulations come into effect.

The goal of issuing this training certificate and the future certificate of competency is to ensure that candidates have a basic understanding of the hazards associated with the marine environment and their own vessel and the prevention of shipboard incidents. Transport Canada and the schools that provide this training want to ensure that candidates have the knowledge and skills required to safely operate a small vessel.

Currently in effect : Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP) training certificate

Training duration

Small Vessel Operator Proficiency training is offered by various schools recognized by Transport Canada. The course runs 26 hours at the end of which candidates who pass the required exam receive a training certificate issued by the teaching establishment in question.

Current minimum certification requirements for Master, small vessel certification

PASSENGER VESSELS (Click on chart to enlarge.)

Current minimum certification requirements for master small vessel (passenger vessels)			
Vessels	Sheltered waters voyage	Near coastal voyage, class 2	
		≤ 2 nautical miles from shore	≤ 25 nautical miles from shore
Greater than 5 GT and less than 60 GT	Master, Limited for a vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage	Master, Limited for a vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage	Master, Limited for a vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage
Less than or equal 5 GT and greater than 8 m	Small Vessel Operator Proficiency training certificate	Small Vessel Operator Proficiency training certificate	Small Vessel Operator Proficiency training certificate
Less than or equal to 8 m and greater than 6 passengers	Small Vessel Operator Proficiency training certificate	Small Vessel Operator Proficiency training certificate	Small Vessel Operator Proficiency training certificate
Less than or equal 8 m and less than or equal 6 passengers	Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOD)	Small Vessel Operator Proficiency training certificate	Small Vessel Operator Proficiency training certificate

Source : Denis Bélanger, Transports Canada

NON-PASSENGER VESSELS (Click on chart to enlarge.)

Current minimum certification requirements for master small vessel (non-passenger vessels)			
Vessels	Sheltered waters voyage	Near coastal voyage, class 2	
		≤ 2 nautical miles from shore	≤ 25 nautical miles from shore
Greater than 5 GT and less than 60 GT	Master, Limited for a vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage	Master, Limited for a vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage	Master, Limited for a vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage
Tug less than 60 GT	Master, Limited for a vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage	Master, Limited for a vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage	Master, Limited for a vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage
Less than or equal to 5 GT (except tugs)	Small Vessel Operator Proficiency training certificate	Small Vessel Operator Proficiency training certificate	Small Vessel Operator Proficiency training certificate
Less than or equal to 8 m (except tugs)	Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOD)	Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOD)	Small Vessel Operator Proficiency training certificate

Source : Denis Bélanger, Transports Canada

New future certificate of competency: Small Vessel Operator Certificate (with coming into effect of revised Marine Personnel Regulations)

Training duration

Small Vessel Operator training will be offered by various schools recognized by Transport Canada. The new course is divided into four modules:

Basic module	Compulsory for all candidates	Duration : 34 hours
Fishing module	Compulsory for fishing vessels	Duration : 6 hours
Passenger module	Compulsory for small passenger vessels	Duration : 6 hours
Tugboat module	Compulsory for tugboats (2 months of sea service will be necessary)	Duration : 6 hours

Upon successful completion of this course, the school will issue a training certificate.

The participant will then have to go to Transport Canada to obtain a Small Vessel Operator Certificate.



Small Vessel Operator Certificate

Certificates to be given to the examiner :

- Small Vessel Operator training certificate issued by a school recognized by Transport Canada;
- Training certificate in MED with respect to small non-pleasure vessel basic safety;
- Marine Basic First Aid Certificate;
- Appropriate radio operator certificate (ROC or ROC with DSC mention or ROC-MC, depending on the navigation zone).

Minimum requirements for Master, small vessel certification under revised version of Regulations

SMALL PASSENGER VESSELS (NEW PROPOSED MPR)

(Click on chart to enlarge.)

Current minimum certification requirements for Master small vessel (passenger vessels)			
Vessels	Sheltered waters voyage	Near coastal voyage, class 2	
		≤ 2 nautical miles from shore	≤ 25 nautical miles from shore
Greater than 12 m, less than 60 GT	Master, Limited for a vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage	Master, Limited for a vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage	Master, Limited for a vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage
Less than or equal to 12 m and less than or equal to 12 passengers	Certificate of competency Small Vessel Operator including passenger module	Certificate of competency Small Vessel Operator including passenger module	Certificate of competency Small Vessel Operator including passenger module
Less than or equal to 8,5 m and less than or equal to 6 passengers	Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOD)	Certificate of competency Small Vessel Operator including passenger module	Certificate of competency Small Vessel Operator including passenger module

SMALL NON-PASSENGER VESSELS (NEW PROPOSED MPR)

(Click on chart to enlarge.)

Current minimum certification requirements for Master small vessel (non-passenger vessels)			
Vessels	Sheltered waters voyage	Near coastal voyage, class 2	
		≤ 2 nautical miles from shore	≤ 25 nautical miles from shore
Master, tug not more than 12 m in overall length that is a tug using a towline	Certificate of competency Small Vessel Operator including tow module	Master, Limited for a vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage	Master, Limited for a vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage
Master, tug not more than 12 m in overall length that is not a tug using a towline	Certificate of competency Small Vessel Operator including tow module	Certificate of competency Small Vessel Operator including tow module	Certificate of competency Small Vessel Operator including tow module
Fishing vessel less than or equal to 12 m	Certificate of competency Small Vessel Operator including fishing module	Certificate of competency Small Vessel Operator including fishing module	Certificate of competency Small Vessel Operator including fishing module
Other vessel between 8,5 m and 12 m (except tugs)	Certificate of competency Small Vessel Operator	Certificate of competency Small Vessel Operator	Certificate of competency Small Vessel Operator
Less than 8,5 m (except tugs)	Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOD)	Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOD)	Certificate of competency Small Vessel Operator

Transition period

The transition period will begin only once the revised version of the Marine Personnel Regulations has been released. At that time, a person who already holds a training certificate from a school recognized by Transport Canada for the Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP) training course will be credited the "Basic module" portion under the new TP 14692 "Small Vessel Operator training course".

Note that a person who holds a training certificate issued under the Marine Personnel Regulations (2007) may, after the revised version of the Regulations comes into effect, continue to operate a vessel of up to 5 gross tonnage (except tugs) engaged on a sheltered waters voyage or a near coastal voyage, class 2.

Small Vessel Operator Certificate - format and renewal

The new Small Vessel Operator certificate of competency should be presented in the form of a plastic card (credit card format).

For the time being, everything leads us to believe that this new Small Vessel Operator Certificate will not have to be renewed.

In concluding, we would like to thank Denis Bélanger of Transport Canada for his outstanding collaboration. We invite you to read our upcoming columns and tell us what regulation-related subjects you would like to obtain more information about. The Sectorial Committee team wishes you an excellent navigation season.