



NEW SMALL VESSEL OPERATOR (SVO/CPB) CERTIFICATION: TAKES EFFECT WITH THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE MARINE PERSONNEL REGULATIONS (MPR) AMENDMENTS

Since 2006, the Human Resources Sectorial Committee of the Maritime Industry has organized a regulatory workshop with Transport Canada on marine personnel. Given the industry's very positive response, the workshop has become an annual event. At the 2012 edition, Denis Bélanger of Transport Canada presented a new navigation certificate to the industry intended exclusively for small vessel operators (SVO), "conducteurs des petits bâtiments (CPB)" in French.

The advent of the SVO/CPB certificate will solve many serious crew staffing problems for domestic certification with restrictions. Managing these certificates is an arduous task, **both** for companies and for the masters holding them. The discharge book of a master, limited, of a vessel of 60 gross tonnage +/- is so full of different certificates that it is difficult to identify the many restrictions related to navigation zones and the restrictions applicable to many small craft.

Update:

At the 9th edition of the Marine Personnel Regulations Workshop, on February 21, 2018, Mario Lavoie of Transport Canada defined the training content of and conditions associated with this new certificate.

The new SVO course will comprise three (3) modules that will affect only the merchant marine:

1. Basic module:

Mandatory training (32 hours);

a. This module will be credited to seafarers who already hold a training certificate from a school recognized by Transport Canada for the "Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP/CCPB) Training Course".

2. Passenger vessel module:

Mandatory training (6 hours);

* With the exception of seafarers:

a. who have accumulated 2 months' sea service on a passenger vessel;

or

b. who have MED-DVS (former A2) training or higher.

3. Tug module:

Mandatory training (6 hours plus 2 months' sea service on tugs);

* With the exception of seafarers:

a. who have accumulated 6 months' sea service on tugs.

Written exams to pass the courses:

Basic module:

* 45 multiple-choice questions and 2 essay questions;

Passenger vessel and tug modules:

* 2 essay questions.

NOTE:

The pass mark for all exams is 70%.



For further information, please feel free to contact Susan Falkner at (418) 694-9059

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Documents to submit to the examiner:

- ▶ Small Vessel Operator Training Certificate and module or other (as indicated in points 1.a / 2. a-b / 3. a);
- ▶ Training Certificate for Marine Emergency Duties (MED) in keeping with the type of vessel's operations;
- ▶ Marine Basic First Aid Training Certificate;
- ▶ Appropriate Radio Operator Training Certificate (ROC-ROC-MC);
- ▶ Valid medical certificate (passenger vessels)
(The company may require this certificate for other vessels or operations)

The transition period will begin only once the amendments to the Marine Personnel Regulations come into force, in spring 2019.

Note that the holder of a certificate for training given under the current Marine Personnel Regulations (2007) will, after the coming into force of the revised version of the Regulations, be able to continue to operate a vessel up to 5 gross tonnage, other than tugs, engaged on a near coastal, class 2 or a sheltered waters voyage.

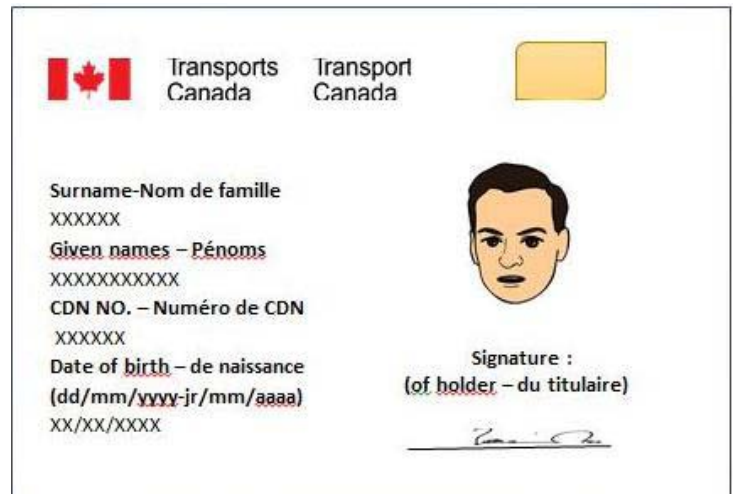
Certain restrictions will apply to passenger vessel and tug operations. These restrictions remain to be determined by Transport Canada before spring 2019.

All of the information contained in this regulatory column was verified in collaboration with :

SVO/CPB certificate format and renewal:

The format of the new small vessel operator competency certificate will be a plastic card (credit card format). All candidate document number (CDN) information will be registered on the card on a microchip. For the time being, it seems highly likely that this new certificate will have to be renewed **every five (5) years** unlike the original version (2012), which was valid for life.

The illustration is for reference purposes only.



In concluding, we would like to thank the Transport Canada representatives for their excellent collaboration during our regulatory workshops. We invite you to read our upcoming regulatory columns and let us know which regulatory subjects you would like to learn more about.



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