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## Changes to ‘Advanced Sea Survival Course for Yachtsmen’

**Note to all owners, Masters, Deck Officers and Ratings of commercially and privately operated yachts and sail training vessels, and those concerned with Maritime Training.**

*This notice should be read with MSN 1858, MSN 1859 and MIN 524.  
This MIN expires 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021.*

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### Summary

This MIN provides detailed information regarding changes to the MCA Advanced Sea Survival course. This course has now been renamed Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (Other than fast rescue boats) (Restricted) issued under Regulation VI/2 of STCW 1978 as amended.

This note also provides information regarding updating of Advanced Sea Survival and Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (Other than fast rescue boats) (Restricted) certificates.

### 1. Introduction

Deck and Engineer Officers serving on Yachts are required to complete a Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (Other than fast rescue boats) or Advanced Sea Survival course as part of their ancillary qualifications. The Advanced Sea Survival course was intended for use on yachts that were not equipped with davit launched lifeboats. This course has been revised and renamed Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (Other than fast rescue boats) (Restricted) with a requirement to update this course every five years.

### 2. Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (Other than fast rescue boats) (Restricted) Course

As part of your ancillary course requirement towards your deck OOW (Yacht) less than 3,000GT or engineer officer certificate of competency you must either complete the Certificate of proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (Other than fast rescue boats) OR the Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (Other than fast rescue boats) (Restricted).

To obtain the restricted certificate you must:

- (a) Be at least 18 years of age;
- (b) Hold a Certificate of Proficiency in Personal Survival Techniques (STCW Code A-VI/1-1);
- (c) Complete MCA-approved training in Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (Other than fast rescue boats) (Restricted) as detailed in Annex A of this notice.
- (d) Have completed at least 6 months approved seagoing service.

### **3. Updating training**

If you hold an Advanced Sea Survival certificate that was issued before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 you must, as of the 1st January 2017, have documentary evidence of having completed the updating training required for the Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (Other than fast rescue boats) (Restricted). This training is detailed in Annex B of this notice. Such training must be repeated at intervals not exceeding five years.

### **4. Further Information**

Further information on the contents of this notice can be obtained from the MCA at the address below.



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***Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas***



## **Course Criteria for Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (Other than fast rescue boats) (Restricted)**

### **Aim**

To provide education and training to yacht personnel who are required to take charge of a survival craft in emergency situations.

This course is intended only for personnel serving in vessels not equipped with davit launched lifeboats and is intended as a direct replacement for the existing 'Advanced Sea Survival' certificate.

This certificate does not qualify the holder to operate fast rescue boats

### **Competence:**

- Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch
- Operate a rescue boat engine
- Manage survivors and survival craft after abandoning yacht
- Use locating devices, including communication and signalling apparatus and pyrotechnics
- Apply first aid to survivors

### **Entry Requirements:**

Before commencing training, trainees must be at least 18 years of age and have received approved training in Personal Survival Techniques (PST).

Training may be undertaken by individuals who have not achieved the sea service requirement of a minimum six months, but the certificate will not be awarded until proof of completion of six months sea service has been provided.

Training centres must ensure, through pre-course information and screening, that learners are fit to participate in all aspects of the training. In particular, they must be made aware of the practical aspects of the training and the physically demanding nature of some of the exercises. If there is any doubt as to an individual's ability to participate in such exercises an appropriate risk assessment should be carried out to determine what is required in order to proceed in a safe manner. Training centres may consider utilising the UK ENG1 medical certificate, or equivalent, as an indicator of fitness.

### **Staff to Learner Ratio**

The trainer to learner ratio should not exceed 1:8 for practical exercises and 1:24 for theory sessions. The number of learners on each course will depend upon the availability of trainers, equipment and facilities available for conducting the training. The number should not exceed that which will allow sufficient opportunity for each learner to take charge during practical exercises. As a minimum, there must be sufficient learners to form a crew for launching and handling survival craft.

### **Duration**

This course must take place over a minimum period of 3 days or 18 hours of formal instruction.



## Assessment

The assessment shall be in three parts:

- In-course continuous assessment
- Practical assessment
- A final exercise designed to test understanding of the techniques learnt during the course and an oral/written examination to test the underpinning knowledge

## Equipment and Facilities

- 1 x Liferaft (6 person minimum) complete with container including complete survival pack and survival equipment including:
  - Floating knife/ Set of bellows/ Safety topping up valve/ Set of leak stops
  - Drogue (sea anchor)/ Set of paddles/ Sponge/ Rescue line and quoit
  - First aid pack/ Whistle/ Bailer/ Heliograph/ Repair outfit/ Survival rations
  - Water/ Fishing kit/ Liferaft instruction/survival booklet/ Rescue signal table
  - Signal torch
- 1 x Set emergency radio equipment (EPIRB, SART and Handheld GMDSS VHF)
- 1 x Set dummy pyrotechnics (hand held, rocket and smoke flares)
- 1 x Line throwing apparatus
- 1 x Hydrostatic release unit (HRU)
- 1 x MCA approved lifejacket per person
- 1 x MCA approved immersion suit
- 1 x Thermal protective aid
- 1 x Man overboard smoke/light marker with mounting
- 1 x Helicopter rescue strop
- 1 x Rescue boat (including equipment)
- 1 x Launching arrangement for rescue boat launch and recovery
- Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers
- SOLAS Convention
- Onboard training manual
- Ship Captain' s Medical Guide
- STCW Code/Convention
- Large Commercial Yacht Code (**LY3**)
- Current videos including:
  - Launch and recovery of rescue boat
  - Cold water survival
  - Launch and recovery of various types of lifeboats (including freefall)

## Qualifications of instructors and assessors

All training and instruction should be given, and assessments carried out, by suitably qualified and experienced personnel. All trainers and assessors should:

- i. Understand the specific objectives of the training;
- ii. Be familiar with the use and operation of life saving appliances and equipment commonly found in yachts.



## **Instructional qualifications and experience**

1. Trainers and assessors delivering the PSC&RB (Restricted) course should either hold a PSC&RB certificate or; Advanced Sea Survival or PSC&RB (Restricted) certificate.
2. All trainers and assessors should have:
  - a) An understanding of assessment methods and practice;
  - b) Practical instructional and assessment experience.

### **Outcomes:**

There are five outcomes to the training:

Outcome 1: The learner can safely take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch.

Outcome 2: The learner can operate a rescue boat engine.

Outcome 3: The learner can manage survivors and survival craft after abandoning vessel.

Outcome 4: The learner can use locating devices, including communication and signalling apparatus and pyrotechnics.

Outcome 5: The learner can apply first aid to survivors.

### **Outcome 1**

The learner can safely take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch.

### **Learning objectives**

1. Describe the construction and uses of different types of survival craft and rescue boats and individual items of their equipment commonly in use on different types of vessel including:
  - i. The construction, contents and deployment of throw over and davit launched liferafts including automatic deployment of liferafts, should the vessel sink– plus their equipment and markings re the number of persons it can carry;
  - ii. Use of painter, sea anchor and associated launch and recovery equipment;
  - iii. Vessel's emergency organisation - musters, drills and training;
  - iv. Identify Marine Guidance Notes, training materials and other sources of safety information;
  - v. Actions prior to abandonment, with regard to lifejackets, protective clothing, extra stores and equipment;
2. Identify particular characteristics and facilities of survival craft and rescue boats, explain their main purpose, features and equipment.
3. Identify different types of devices used for launching and recovery of survival craft and rescue boats
4. Describe methods for launch, recovery and handling of survival craft in rough seas, covering abandon ship drill procedures
5. Identify the actions to be taken after leaving the vessel, including commands for:
  - i. Launching and boarding survival craft
  - ii. Clearing the yacht



- iii. Handling and disembarking persons from survival craft
  - iv. Manoeuvring safely to recover a simulated person overboard from the water;
  - v. Returning alongside;
  - vi. Recovering the craft safely.
6. Identify the maintenance checks carried out on a regular basis to survival craft and the 'First Aid' maintenance procedures to be carried out in the event of equipment malfunction.

## **Outcome 2**

The learner can operate a rescue boat engine.

### **Learning objectives**

1. Demonstrate how to conduct pre-start preparations and checks.
2. Demonstrate how to start rescue boat engines and describe:
  - i. The safe and correct use of the inboard engine and associated equipment, including fire extinguisher;
  - ii. Cold starting procedures;
  - iii. Outboard engine operations, including starting and stopping procedures;
  - iv. Basic fault finding or possible problems if the engine fails to start.

## **Outcome 3**

The learner can manage survivors and survival craft after abandoning yacht.

### **Learning objectives**

1. Basic knowledge on Crisis Management techniques and Human Behaviour during emergency
2. Understand the principles of passenger control in emergency situations
3. Awareness of passenger reaction in emergency situation
4. Demonstrate how to handle survival craft and describe the actions to be taken in a survival craft until rescued, including initial and secondary procedures in lifeboats and life-rafts.
5. Demonstrate the actions taken to maximise detectability and location of survival craft, including:
  - i. How to best use survival craft location aids, including pyrotechnic distress signals and radar reflectors;
  - ii. Congregation of rescue boats and liferafts at a safe distance from the stricken vessel.
6. Describe the effects of hypothermia and its prevention;
  - i. Use of protective covers and garments, including immersion suits and thermal protective aids.
7. Describe methods of helicopter rescue, including:
  - i. Search and rescue organisation;
  - ii. Methods of rescue by yachts and aircraft, including helicopter winching;
  - iii. Precautions to be taken when disembarking survivors, especially cold/hypothermic casualties.



8. Demonstrate the use of rescue boats for marshalling liferafts and rescue of survivors and persons from the sea, including:
  - i. Identification and use of various aids to recover casualties – ladders, stretchers, lifting devices, nets etc;

#### **Outcome 4**

The learner can use locating devices including communication and signalling apparatus and pyrotechnics.

#### **Learning objectives**

1. Describe the correct rigging and appropriate use of radio life-saving appliances, including:
  - i. EPIRBs, hand held radios (plus those equipped with air band frequencies as required for all passenger vessels) and radar transponders (SARTs);
  - ii. The use and choice of communication equipment and its appropriateness to the prevailing circumstances and conditions.
2. Explain how best to use survival craft location aids, including pyrotechnic distress signals and radar reflectors.

#### **Outcome 5**

The learner can apply first aid to survivors.

#### **Learning objectives**

1. Explain how to use items found in the first aid kit and demonstrate resuscitation techniques.
2. Demonstrate the management of injured persons, to cover:
  - i. Dealing with injured persons in a survival craft during and after abandonment including casualty handling and management of conditions such as control of bleeding and shock;
  - ii. Drowning, and dealing with prevention, effects and treatment of hypothermia;
  - iii. Personal protection and use of immersion suits and thermal protective aids;
  - iv. Cold weather injuries – frostbite, immersion foot;
  - v. Warm weather injuries - sunburn, heat exhaustion and heat stroke;
  - vi. Effects of seasickness and dehydration.
  - vii. Explains the initial treatment for burns, scalds, bleeding and fractures
  - viii. Demonstrate a knowledge of the cause, effects and treatment of heat illness (burns, strokes and exhaustion)
  - ix. Is aware of the dangers of drinking sea water and urine
  - x. Explains the management of survival supplies
  - xi. Understands the dangers of incorrect treatment
  - xii. Can explain the correct treatment of an unconscious survivor





Updating Training Course Criteria for Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats (Restricted)

**Aim**

To give all those seeking updating training certification the essential education and training in Survival Craft (Restricted):

There is one outcome to the training

**Outcome 1:** The learner is able to maintain the required standard of competence in proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats (other than fast rescue boats) (restricted).

**Entry requirements**

Updating training is to be undertaken, in line with the above outcomes by seafarers holding an Advanced Sea Survival certificate or, in the future, by holders of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (Other than Fast Rescue Boats)(Restricted) certificate.

**Staff to learner ratio**

As per PSC&RB (Restricted) course requirements detailed in Annex A.

**Training duration**

Not less than 3 contact hours over half a day.

**Facilities and equipment**

As per PSC&RB (Restricted) course requirements detailed in Annex A.

**Conduct of training**

As per PSC&RB (Restricted) course requirements detailed in Annex A.

**Certification and documentation**

An achievement of the desired standard of competence a certificate will be issued by the centre in the format shown Annex C.

**Outcome 1**

The learner is able to maintain the required standard of competence in survival craft and rescue boats (other than fast rescue boats) (Restricted).

**Learning objectives**

1. Identify the dangers associated with the use of off-load and on-load release devices, including:
  - i. The difference between 'off-load' and 'on-load' release equipment;
  - ii. The importance of ensuring lifeboat is waterborne before release from falls;
  - iii. Identification and explanation of hydrostatic interlocks used in on-load release systems and their correct operation.
  
2. Demonstrate the correct operation of off-load and on-load release devices, including the correct resetting of both types of release device.



3. Identify and explain the correct operation of Fall Prevention/Secondary Safety Devices or their equivalent.
4. Safely operate a survival craft engine, including:
  - i. Pre-start preparations and checks;
  - ii. Start, stop and safely operate survival craft engine;
  - iii. Cold starting procedures;
  - iv. Basic fault finding or possible problems if the engine fails to start.



Certificate No: *[Unique identifier number allocated by Approved Training Centre]*

MCA Approval Certificate Number: *[issued by the MCA]*

Address and contact details including telephone and email of Issuing Authority *[Approved Training Centre]*

**Certificate Of Proficiency In  
Survival Craft And Rescue Boats Other Than Fast Rescue Boats (Restricted)**

This is to certify that *[full name of learner]*

Date of birth *[MM/DD/YYYY]*

Discharge Book Number or other National ID *[identify the document]*

has successfully completed a programme of training approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency as meeting the requirements of Regulation VI/2, using the provisions of Article IX of **the STCW Convention and Code 1978, as amended**, and has also met the additional criteria specified, applicable to the issue of this certificate.

This Certificate is issued under the authority of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, an executive agency of the Department for Transport.

Name and Signature of Principal or Authorised Representative of the Approved Training Centre

Issuing authority stamp and date

Signature of person to whom this certificate was issued



No: *[Unique identifier number allocated by Approved Training Centre]*

MCA Approval Certificate Number: *[issued by the MCA]*

Address and contact details including telephone and email of Issuing Authority *[Approved Training Centre]*

**Certificate Of Updated Proficiency In  
Survival Craft And Rescue Boats Other Than Fast Rescue Boats (Restricted)**

This is to certify that *[full name of learner]*

Date of birth *[MM/DD/YYYY]*

Discharge Book Number or other National ID *[identify the document]*

has successfully completed a programme of training approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency as meeting the requirements as meeting the requirements of Regulation VI/2, using the provisions of Article IX of **the STCW Convention and Code 1978, as amended**, and has also met the additional criteria specified, applicable to the issue of this certificate.

This Certificate is issued under the authority of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, an executive agency of the Department for Transport.

Signature of Principal or Authorised  
Representative of the Approved Training  
Centre

Issuing authority  
stamp and date

Signature of person to whom this certificate  
was issued

