



Boatmasters' Licence Regulations: Information for boatmasters and crew members holding STCW basic training certificates after 1 January 2017.

Notice to all training centres, operators, masters and crew members of passenger vessels and non-passenger vessels on inland waterways and on limited coastal operations.

This notice should be read in conjunction with MSN 1853, MSN 1861, MSN 1865, MGN 203, MIN 522 and MIN 535.

This MIN expires 6 February 2022.

Summary

This note provides clarification on updating-refresher training requirements, where applicable, for those boatmasters and crew members holding Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) basic training certificates in lieu of Boatmasters' Licence (BML) ancillary safety training.

The contents of this Note will be incorporated in the next amendment to MSN 1853.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 From 1 January 2017 seafarers working on vessels to which the STCW Convention applies will be required to provide documentary evidence of the completion of updating-refresher training for STCW basic and advanced short courses. These requirements are described in detail in Marine Information Note (MIN) 535.
- 1.2 Since 2006 new entrant boatmasters holding Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued BMLs have been required to complete ancillary safety training in Personal Survival and Water Safety, Fire Safety and First Aid. These requirements are described in detail in Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN) 1853.
- 1.3 Since 2003 crew members on domestic passenger vessels have been required to complete familiarisation and competent crew training. These requirements are described in detail in Marine Guidance Note (MGN) 203.



- 1.4 Some boatmasters opt to complete Personal Survival Techniques (STCW A-VI/1-1), Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW A-VI/1-2), Elementary First Aid (STCW A-VI/1-3) training courses in lieu of the BML ancillary safety training courses. The equivalence of each course is described in MIN 522.
 - 1.5 Some crew members on domestic passenger vessels opt to complete Personal Survival Techniques (STCW A-VI/1-1), Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW A-VI/1-2), Elementary First Aid (STCW A-VI/1-3) and Personal Safety and Social Responsibility (STCW A-VI/1-4) training courses to demonstrate they have met the required standard for competent crew training. The equivalence of each course is described in MGN 203.
2. **Holders of MCA issued BMLs**
 - 2.1 Those boatmasters with MCA issued BMLs working **solely** on vessels to which the Merchant Shipping (Boatmasters' Qualifications, Crew and Hours of Work) Regulations 2015 ("the regulations") apply do not need to complete updating-refresher training in Personal Survival Techniques or Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting.
 - 2.2 Those vessels to which the regulations apply are described in Annex 1 of MSN 1853.
3. **Holders of UK STCW Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Equivalent Competency**
 - 3.1 Some boatmasters may use a UK issued STCW Certificate of Competency (CoC) or Certificate of Equivalent Competency (CEC) in lieu of an MCA issued BML to work on vessels to which the regulations apply. Arrangements for this are described in detail in Annex 3 and 4 of MSN 1853.
 - 3.2 These boatmasters will be required to complete all applicable updating-refresher training required to maintain the validity of their CoC/CEC if they wish to continue using it, in lieu of a BML, on vessels to which the regulations apply.
4. **Competent Crew Training**
 - 4.1 Those crew members working **solely** on domestic passenger vessels described in MGN 203 do not need to complete STCW updating-refresher training in Personal Survival Techniques or Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting if they hold full course certificates for this training. It should be noted that this does not alter the requirements for on-board familiarisation and refresher training in accordance with MGN 203.
5. **Dual certification**
 - 5.1 Those boatmasters holding other STCW certification, such as Watch Rating and Able Seafarer certificates, in addition to an MCA BML or UK CoC or CEC, will be required to complete the applicable updating-refresher training in order to continue using their STCW certification at sea.
6. **Further Information**
 - 6.1 Further information on the contents of this Note can be obtained from the MCA at the address given overleaf.



More Information

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