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## The Merchant Shipping (Boatmasters' Qualifications, Crew and Hours of Work) Regulations 2015

### Local Regulations

**Notice to all operators and masters of all vessels on inland waterways and on limited coastal operations**

*This notice should be read in conjunction with MSN 1853.  
This MIN expires ON 4 April 2020*

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#### Summary

This notice gives information on port and navigation authorities' local regulations and byelaws, and where to obtain further information on them.

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Merchant Shipping (Boatmaster' Qualifications, Crew and Hours of Work) Regulations 2015 apply to masters of vessels operating on inland waterways and limited coastal areas<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.2 Full information on the structure and requirements of the BML Regulations are contained in Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN) 1853.
- 1.3 To ensure the safe conduct of navigation a boatmaster must be aware of local information for the area they are operating in and comply with any local knowledge requirements for that area.

### 2. Definitions

- 2.1 "Local Knowledge" means knowledge of the features and characteristics within an area that present a hazard to safe navigation, and how to deal with them. It also means a more detailed knowledge of the local requirements referred to in 2.1 above. Local Knowledge Endorsements (LKE) are covered in Section 7 of MSN 1853.

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<sup>1</sup> Details of the application and scope of these Regulations is contained within section 2 of MSN 1853



- 2.2 “Inland Waterways” means all categorised waters as defined and listed in MSN 1837, as amended, and any other non-categorised inland waters.
- 2.3 “Limited Coastal area” means an area of no more than 5 miles from land and no more than 15 miles from a point of departure or arrival (excluding waters of category A, B, C or D).

### **3. Application and Scope**

- 3.1 As well as knowledge of the general “rules of the road” for navigation, a boatmaster needs to be familiar with any local rules and regulations in force for the port or inland areas in which they operate. Therefore, the boatmaster must have an awareness of any navigational requirements, or restrictions, under a harbour or navigation authority’s local regulations or byelaws.
- 3.2 Candidates for the Tier 1 Boatmasters’ Licence will be tested on that awareness as a matter of course, as part of the on-board examination for their generic licence. That testing will cover the local rules and byelaws for the area where they are being examined, and immediately adjacent waterways. If a Tier 1 Boatmasters’ Licence holder subsequently goes to different areas, they must develop the same awareness of the harbour/navigation authority’s local requirements for each area, as this is fundamental to safe navigation and good seamanship.
- 3.1 Candidates for the Tier 2 Boatmasters’ Licence will have to demonstrate similar awareness of local requirements for the area in which their on board assessment takes place.

### **4. Local Licences and Local Knowledge Endorsements**

- 4.1 In areas where there is a local licence (e.g. a boatman’s licence) the holder of a relevant Boatmasters’ Licence or Boatmaster’s Certificate will not be required to hold the local licence (Pilotage requirements are not affected)
- 4.2 In areas where the Secretary of State has determined that a Local Knowledge Endorsement (LKE) is required the boatmaster must hold the relevant LKE to operate in that area.

### **5. Local regulations notified to the MCA**

- 5.1 Annex 1 below list those authorities that have advised the MCA of their local regulations. It describes the area covered by the port/harbour authority (where that information has been provided) and provides contact details from where more information can be obtained.
- 5.2 The information in this notice is reviewed annually. Boatmasters’ should always contact the relevant port/harbour authority to confirm any updates to the information contained here.
- 5.3 A port/harbour authority with an entry in this notice should contact the MCA to advise of any amendments. A port/harbour authority which would like their details included in this notice should contact the MCA.



## **More Information**

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General Inquiries: [infoline@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:infoline@mcga.gov.uk)

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