



Directive 2009/100/EC on Reciprocal Recognition of Navigability Licences for Inland Waterway Vessels

Notice to all Owners and Operators of inland waterway vessels, and Navigation and Harbour Authorities

This notice replaces MSN 1805 and should be read in conjunction with MSN 1879, MSN 1880 and MSN 1881.

Summary

This Merchant Shipping Notice provides information concerning the procedure for obtaining a navigability licence to operate on inland waterways of the European Economic Area (EEA), other than those in the United Kingdom.

The requirement for a navigability licence does not apply to vessels which do not leave the inland waterways of the United Kingdom.

1. Introduction/ Background

1.1 Directive 2009/100/EC applies to vessels used for goods transport on inland waterways which have a total dead weight of 20 metric tonnes or more:

- (a) having a length of less than 20 metres; and
- (b) for which the product of length, breadth and draught is less than 100 cubic metres.

1.2 These vessels therefore fall outside the scope of Directive (EU) 2016/1629, which applies to vessels (including passenger vessels) having a length of 20m or more, and a volume of 100 cubic metres or more.

1.3 The navigability licence regime pre-dates the technical standards for inland waterway vessels introduced by Directive 2006/87/EC as repealed by Directive (EU) 2016/1629. At that time there was not the same level of integration of vessel standards across EEA Member States as there is now and navigability licences provided a means by which the standards applied by individual Member States could be mutually recognised. Due to the development of the technical standards regime under Directive 2006/87/EC and Directive (EU) 2016/1629, the navigability licence regime now only applies to smaller inland waterway cargo vessels which are outside the scope of these more recent Directives.



2. Navigability Licences

- 2.1 The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has responsibility for issuing navigability licences for vessels that come within the scope of Article 1 of Directive 2009/100/EC (as set out in paragraph 1.1 above), that are registered or have their home port in the United Kingdom or the United Kingdom is where the owner of the vessel is domiciled and wish to operate on the inland waterways of other EEA Member States. Any person wishing to obtain such a licence should apply to the MCA at the address below, quoting the file reference shown. The information listed in Annex I to this MSN should be provided with the application.
- 2.2 A navigability licence is not required for any vessel which does not leave the inland waterways of the United Kingdom.
- 2.3 Directive 2009/100/EC also provides that navigability licences issued by other EEA Member States, which comply with the requirements of that Directive shall be recognised for navigation on the inland waterways of the United Kingdom.

3. Maritime Shipping Lanes

- 3.1 Article 3(6) of Directive 2009/100/EC provides that Member States may require fulfilment in maritime shipping lanes of additional conditions equivalent to those required for their own vessels, and to notify the European Commission of those maritime shipping lanes. The United Kingdom does not have any such additional requirements for vessels within the scope of Directive 2009/100/EC and therefore no maritime shipping lanes to notify to the European Commission.

More Information

Vessel Standards Branch
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Bay 2/23
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

Website Address: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency

General Enquiries: infoline@mcga.gov.uk

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telephone numbers are correct at time of publishing

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ANNEX I
INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED WITH APPLICATION FOR
NAVIGABILITY LICENCE

1. Name and domicile of the owner of the vessel
2. Name of vessel
3. Place and number of registration*
4. Home port*
5. Main characteristics:
 - a) Overall length in metres
 - b) Overall breadth in metres
 - c) Depth below waterline at maximum draught(s) in metres
6. Deadweight(s) in metric tons or displacement(s) in cubic metres at maximum draught(s)*
7. Indication of draught marking*
8. Maximum number of authorised passengers*
9. Total power of propelling engines in HP or KW*
10. Minimum freeboard(s) in centimetres

Information marked * is to be provided only if applicable.

