



Boatmasters' Licence Regulations: Examination arrangements for the Port of London Local Knowledge Endorsement

Notice to all operators and masters of passenger vessels and non-passenger vessels on inland waterways and on limited coastal operations.

*This notice should be read with MSN 1853 (M).
This MIN expires 11 January 2021.*

Summary

This MIN advises of revised arrangements for the conduct of oral assessments for revalidation of the Port of London Local Knowledge Endorsement. The revised arrangements will take effect from March 2016.

1. Introduction/ Background

- 1.1 Boatmasters' Licence (BML) holders working in the Local Knowledge Endorsement (LKE) area of the River Thames between Margaretness and Putney Bridge are required to qualify for the Thames Watermen (Port of London) LKE. The LKE is valid for five years from the date that the applicant successfully passes a new entrant's oral assessment. The LKE must be revalidated every five years by passing a shorter revalidation oral assessment.
- 1.2 The assessment panel for new entrants and revalidations is currently led by a Port of London Authority (PLA) Examiner. A Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) Examiner also sits on the assessment panel.
- 1.3 There will be no change to the composition of assessment panels for new entrant oral assessments. The MCA reserves the right to open discussions on its continuing presence at new entrants' assessments at a future date.
- 1.4 An MCA Examiner will cease to be routinely present at revalidation oral assessments with effect from 1 March 2016.



2. Conduct of revalidation assessments after March 2016

- 2.1 Revalidation oral assessment panels will consist of a PLA Examiner and a Thames Practitioner from a list agreed between the PLA and Company of Watermen and Lightermen (CWL). The MCA will be notified of the agreed list annually or when a change is made to the list.
- 2.2 Revalidation oral assessments may be conducted at either PLA Offices, Watermen's Hall or at employer's premises.
- 2.3 There is currently no fee for a revalidation oral assessment. The PLA reserves the right to introduce an assessment fee at a later date.
- 2.4 Any candidate who fails their revalidation oral assessment may resit the assessment within a time scale agreed by the assessment panel.

3. Assessment schedule and booking

- 3.1 Revalidation assessment panels will be held each week on Wednesday commencing 2 March 2016 until further notice.
- 3.2 Candidates may book an assessment date by contacting the PLA using the following details:

Contact Telephone No: 01474 562205
Email Address: LKE@pla.co.uk
- 3.3 Employers wishing to hold assessment panels at their premises should contact the PLA using the contact details at para 3.2.
- 3.4 Any candidate who is unable to attend their assessment must make every effort to advise the PLA in good time.
- 3.5 The PLA will advise of any changes to assessment schedules and booking information following January 2021 by issuing a Notice to Mariners.

4. Audit and sampling of assessments

- 4.1 The MCA reserves the right to attend Thames Watermen (Port of London) LKE revalidation assessments at any time.
- 4.2 Where assessment pass rates or the conduct of an individual assessment give cause for concern to either the PLA or CWL the MCA must be notified as soon as reasonably possible.
- 4.3 The MCA undertakes to investigate on receipt of notification and will communicate any findings to both the CWL and PLA.

5. Further Information

- 5.1 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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Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
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Website Address: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency

General Inquiries: infoline@mcga.gov.uk

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