

Commercial Endorsement

Licence for use by Masters of Licensed Passenger Boats



An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport



What is a Commercial Endorsement?

A Commercial Endorsement is an official certificate issued by Irish Sailing on behalf of the Department of Transport that qualifies you to act as Master or Crew on a vessel holding a valid Passenger Boat Licence.

What is a Passenger Boat?

Under the Merchant Shipping Act 1992, vessels carrying up to 12 passengers for reward (ie. paying for the service) may be deemed as a Passenger Boat and required as such to hold a Passenger Boat Licence. In this case, Masters or Crew of the vessel must hold an appropriate competency certificate, that is Commercially Endorsed.

Examples of Passenger Boats may include;

- Sightseeing Tour Boats
- Angling Charter Boats
- Small Ferry Operators
- High-Speed RIB Tours
- Commercial Construction Workboats
- Site Safety Boats
- Vessels engaged in Survey and Engineering Works
- Commercial Diveboats
- Water Sampling Vessels

Classifications of Passenger Boats

Passenger Boats are categorised under six different classes based on their intended use, capacity and operating area of the vessel (P1-6).

CLASS	PASSENGER CAPACITY	OPERATING WATERS	PASSENGER USE
P1	Up to 3	Domestic Voyages Smooth Waters	Engaged in activities other than those specified in Class P4.
P2	Up to 12	Domestic Voyages Smooth Waters	Engaged in activities other than those specified in Class P4.
P3	Up to 12	Domestic Voyages Smooth Waters or to Sea Within 15nm from their designated point of departure and within 3nm from land.	
P4	Up to 3	Domestic Voyages Smooth Waters or to Sea Within 0.5nm from their designated point of departure.	Engaged exclusively in the course of their employment in connection with marine civil engineering, survey of harbour limits dredging or similar commercial activities.



CLASS	PASSENGER CAPACITY	OPERATING WATERS	PASSENGER USE
P5	Up to 12	Domestic Voyages Smooth Waters to Sea	
P6	Up to 12	Domestic Voyages Smooth Waters	Engaged actively and solely in waterborne activities in which the passenger boats form an integral and necessary part of those activities.

To obtain a Passenger Boat Licence the boat must be surveyed by a Marine Surveyor assigned by the Marine Survey Office (MSO), who must certify that the vessel complies with these [Regulations](#).

Classifications of waters and the waters your vessel is licenced to operate in is determined by the MSO and noted on your vessels P Licence.

[Regulation 2 - Port Areas \(Smooth Waters & Partially Smooth Waters\)](#)

How to Obtain a Commercial Endorsement

Masters or Crew must hold a recognised competency certificate that reflects their ability to operate a vessel safely. Those holding an appropriate Irish Sailing competency certificate may obtain a Commercial Endorsement via [application](#) on sailing.ie

There are four categories of Commercial Endorsement (A, B, B1, C).

The category of Commercial Endorsement required by the Master or Crew varies according to the type of Passenger Boat Licence the vessel holds.

Categories A, B, B1 and C define the operating area and exposure level of the commercial activity, and must correspond with the Passenger Boat Licence and vessel coding issued by the MSO.

Irish Sailing Certificates of Competency Accepted			
National Powerboat Certificate	B1	Day Skipper (Sail)	B1
Inland Waterways Motorboat Skippers Certificate	B1	Yachtmaster Coastal (Sail)	A
Advanced Powerboat Certificate	B	Yachtmaster Offshore (Sail)	A or C
Day Skipper (Motor)	B1	Yachtmaster Ocean (Sail)	A or C
Yachtmaster Coastal (Motor)	A		
Yachtmaster Offshore (Motor)	A or C		
Yachtmaster Ocean (Motor)	A or C		

Certificates Issued by Irish Maritime Administration Fishing Certificates of Competency			
Skipper Full	A or C	Second Hand Full	A or C
Skipper Limited	A or C	Second Hand Limited	A or C
		Second Hand Special	A or C



Certificates Issued by Irish Maritime Administration Merchant Navy Certificates of Competency

Master (unlimited) – Master Unlimited STCW Regulation II/2	A or C
Master (less than 3000gt) STCW Regulation II/2	A or C
Master Near Coastal Area STCW Regulation II/3	A or C
Chief Mate (unlimited) – CM Unlimited Regulation II/2	A or C
Chief Mate (less than 3000gt) STCW Regulation II/2	A or C
Officer in Charge of a Navigational Watch (unlimited) OOW Unlimited STCW Regulation II/1	A or C
Officer in charge of a Navigational Watch less than 500gt NCA Regulation II/3	A or C

EU Competency Certificates - Irish Sailing may accept EU Merchant Navy or competency certificates issued under the auspices of the STCW Convention, subject to approval by the MSO.

UK Competency Certificates - Irish Sailing may accept UK Merchant Navy, RYA and UK certificates of competency issued under the STCW Convention by the UK administration, subject to approval by the MSO. The authenticity and validity of all certificates must be verifiable.

Validity Period

A Commercial Endorsment is valid for 5-years.

In addition to the competency certificate required, the below ancillary certificates are also required;

	A	B and B1	C
Age	Over 18	Over 18	Over 18
Sea Survival	PST Certificate (STCW 95) or Irish Sailing Offshore Personal Safety Certificate	PST Certificate (STCW 95) or Irish Sailing Offshore Personal Safety Certificate	PST Certificate (STCW 95) or Irish Sailing Offshore Personal Safety Certificate
Medical Fitness	Letter from registered GP confirming fitness to operate as Master of Passenger Vessel, to include an eye test including colour vision (within last 30 days)	Letter from registered GP confirming fitness to operate as Master of Passenger Vessel, to include an eye test including colour vision (within last 30 days)	ENG 11
First-Aid	Elementary First Aid (STCW 95) Occupational First Aid (FETAC) First Aid Response (PHECC) Emergency First Responder (PHECC)	Elementary First Aid (STCW 95) Occupational First Aid (FETAC) First Aid Response (PHECC) Emergency First Responder (PHECC)	Proficiency in Medical Care (STCW95)
Service Requirement	None	12 months or 50 logged hours	None

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Passenger Boat Licence		P1		P2		P3		P4		P5			P6			P6 (Sail)		
Category of Waters		Sea	Inland	Sea	Inland	Sea	Inland	Sea	Inland	All Waters			All Waters			All Waters		
Distance from 'Safe Haven'		-	-	-	-	15nm		0.5nm		40nm	150nm		40nm	150nm		40nm	150nm	
Master	National Powerboat Certificate	B1	B1	B1	B1	-	-	B1	B1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Inland Waterways Motorboat Skipper Certificate	-	B1	-	B1	-	B1	-	B1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Advanced Powerboat Certificate	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	-	-	B	-	-	-	-	-
	Day Skipper (Motor)	B1	B1	B1	B1	B1	B1	B1	B1	B1	-	-	B1	-	-	-	-	-
	Yachtmaster Coastal (Motor)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-
	Yachtmaster Offshore (Motor)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	A	C	-	-	-	-
	Yachtmaster Ocean (Motor)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	A	C	C	-	-	-
	Day Skipper (Sail)	B1	B1	B1	B1	B1	B1	B1	B1	B1	-	-	B1	-	-	B1	-	-
	Yachtmaster Coastal (Sail)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	-	A	-	-	A	-	-
	Yachtmaster Offshore (Sail)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	A	C	C	A	C	C
	Yachtmaster Ocean (Sail)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	A	C	C	A	C	C
Certificates Issued by Irish Maritime Administration	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	A	C	C	A	C	C	
Crew	Yachtmaster Coastal (Motor)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	B	B	-	B	B	-	-	-
	Yachtmaster Offshore (Motor)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	B	B	-	B	B	-	-	-
	Yachtmaster Ocean (Motor)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	A	-	A	A	-	-	-
	Yachtmaster Coastal (Sail)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	B	B	-	B	B	-	B	B
	Yachtmaster Offshore (Sail)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	B	B	-	B	B	-	A	A
Yachtmaster Ocean (Sail)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	B	B	-	B	B	-	B	B	

1 - For operation during daylight hours only.



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