

Skipper Certificate

ISSA Standard: Yacht Level 1 + Level 2 (Part)

General Standard

Command Certification holders will successfully demonstrate both practical and theoretical knowledge to requirements below. They will have demonstrated the ability to responsibly and safely skipper a simple day-sailing sloop-rigged keelboat of approximately one ton displacement and an auxiliary powered Cruising Yacht on a day sail. These requirements are expected to be able to be performed safely with confident command of the boat in a wind range of 5 to 15 knots. Some regions may have stronger prevailing conditions, which are acceptable if the candidate can safely control the boat, and be aware of his or her limitations in these conditions.

Course formats

The course completion is a combination of practical and a written theoretical examination.

The theoretical elements of the course may be conducted on shore or aboard.

Recommended Equipment

It is recommended that Basic Keelboat Certification courses and examinations be conducted on 18' to 27' daysailing sloop-rigged keelboats with tiller steering and an auxiliary powered sloop-rigged Cruising Yacht of up to 32 feet in length with auxiliary power and with adequate equipment inventory to complete all required certification outcomes.

Prerequisite

Competent Crew or appropriate experience

General

- All exercises stress coordination and command of the crew

On Shore

Skipper's responsibilities

- Obtain and analyse forecasts.
- Recognize and forecast prevailing local weather conditions.
- Familiarise with Chart - identify chart symbols and relevant topographical features.
- Plan Route and alternates in view of likely weather.
- Prepare a comprehensive crew briefing and plan of responsibilities.
- Define towing techniques: maneuvering onto a tow, handling and securing a towline, chafing protection, boat speed, dropping off a tow and communications.
- Provisioning Requirements: Water and Food
- Understand the legal responsibilities of the overboard discharge of pollutants.
- Understand all local regulations as they pertain to your boat operation.

On Board

Preparation to Sail

- Complete a thorough crew briefing on:
 - Yacht systems
 - Safety Equipment
 - Emergency Procedures

Knots and Lines:

- Tie and describe the use of knots: clove hitch, sheet bend and rolling hitch.

Sail Controls:

- Demonstrate and command crew in the use of sail controls: halyards, sheets, traveler, cunningham/downhaul, outhaul, adjustable backstay (if applicable), boom vang, leech lines, jib fairleads and boom toppinglift.

Leaving the Dock or Mooring:

- Formulate a recovery plan for an engine failure for arrival and departure from harbor.
- Plan and execute appropriate helmsman and crew coordination and skills for departure under power suitable to the conditions: line handling, casting off, fending off and boathandling.
- Use of docklines, including springlines, as required for boat control while departing.
- Stowing of docklines and fenders.

Boat Control:

- Under power:
 - Speed and momentum control, windage and prop walk control, .
 - Steer a compass course with changes in course to a given destination.
- Under sail:
 - Helm and boat control in a variety of wind and sea conditions.
 - Short tacking and controlled jibes.

Overboard Recovery Methods:

- Properly demonstrate the Quick-Stop, Lifesling-type, and Quick-Turn overboard recovery methods under sail to include: constant visual contact with the victim, communications, recovery plan, sequence of maneuvers, boathandling, course sailed, pickup approach and coming
- Describe methods of getting an overboard recovery victim back on deck after the vessel is stopped alongside. alongside the victim (or simulated object).
- Explain when overboard recovery should be done under power and the inherent dangers.

Safety and Emergency Procedures:

- Describe recovery methods after going aground.

Anchoring Techniques:

- Select an anchorage – taking into account prevailing weather, fetch, holding/anchor type.
- Appropriate helmsman and crew coordination and skills for properly anchoring with a single anchor under power.
- Appropriate helmsman and crew coordination and skills for retrieving your anchor under power.
- Anchoring in reduced visibility.

Piloting:

- Ability to identify chart symbols and corresponding visual observations.
- Position awareness: basic dead reckoning: plotting course and estimated position
- Calculating time/speed/distance
- Take bearings and use them for turns and obstruction avoidance
- Safety precautions to be taken before entering reduced visibility.

Heavy Weather Sailing:

- Determining when to shorten sail.
- Reefing techniques and crew procedures: reefing the mainsail, dropping sails, shaking out a reef, and rehoisting underway.
- Furling Techniques and crew procedures: Downwind control, correct car positions
- Helm and boat control while sailing under shortened sail.

Returning to the Dock or Mooring:

- Helmsman and crew coordination and skills for arrival under power: boathandling, deploying fenders, stopping and tying up.
- Correct use and deployment of docklines, including springlines.

Securing the Boat Properly:

- Coordinate crew and ensure yacht is secured properly and is clean including.
- Stowing of sails, rigging and equipment.
- Install any covers and dock power equipment
- Check both the electrical and bilge systems for dock operation.
- Check the locks on companionway, lockers and hatches.
- Make a final check of docklines, spring lines and fender placement.