



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

MARINE NOTICE No. 4 of 2006

Amended: 27/10/2022

To all Passenger Boat Owners, Operators, Masters and Crew Members.

Nomination of Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) as an appointed body for the purposes of the Merchant Shipping (Passenger Boat Manning) Regulations 2005.

For the purpose of Merchant Shipping (Passenger Boat Manning) Regulations 2005 (S.I. No. 649 of 2005) please note the following as applicable:

1. Appointed Body

In compliance with Regulation 3 of the Regulations the Minister has appointed Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) as an appointed body for the purpose of issuing certificates and commercial endorsements. The Irish Sailing Association (ISA) is already an appointed body for the purposes of the regulations (*details of courses provided by the ISA, for the purposes of the regulations, are outlined in Marine Notice No. 27 of 2005*).

2. Implementation Date

The Merchant Shipping (Passenger Boat Manning) Regulations will come into effect on **1 April 2006**.

3. Qualifications Required

3.1. Certificate

All masters of the classes of passenger boats of less than 80 gross tons or less than 24 metres registered length and engaged exclusively in passenger boat operations which are listed at Annex II are required to hold a certificate as specified in Annex I of this Marine Notice. The requirement date to comply is **1 April 2006**.

The BIM syllabus for the Passenger Boat Proficiency Course is given in Annex III. Candidates for the course are required to have at least 12 months sea service, which must be verified by a declaration of sea service signed by a Peace Commissioner. Sea service on board a fishing vessel is eligible. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age. Candidates will be required to obtain a FETAC Merit grade in the course.

3.1.1. Existing Masters

Existing masters are required to obtain a Passenger Boat Proficiency Certificate. Details are available from Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM).

Existing masters who are successful in obtaining a Passenger Boat Proficiency Certificate will also need to comply with the requirements set out in the regulations and this Marine Notice for a commercial endorsement.

3.2. Commercial Endorsements

All masters of passenger boats are required to hold a commercial endorsement as specified in Annex 1 of this Marine Notice, incorporating the following: Personal Survival Techniques Course or equivalent, First Aid Training and a Medical Fitness Certificate. The requirement date to comply is **1 April 2006**.

3.2.1. Personal Survival Techniques Course or equivalent

Masters of passenger boats should hold either:

- An approved STCW Personal Survival Techniques Course Certificate or
- An approved STCW Basic Sea Survival Course Certificate.

3.2.2. First Aid Training

The master of a passenger boat of classes P1, P2, P3, P4 and classes P5 and P6 within 40 miles of a safe haven should hold an STCW approved Elementary First Aid Certificate. Masters of passenger boats of class P5 and P6 operating further than 40 miles from a safe haven should hold an STCW approved Proficiency in Medical Care Certificate. The master should undertake refresher training at least every five years.

[See also: Marine Notice No. 65 of 2022.](#)

3.2.3. Medical Fitness Certificates

The master and anyone else who is employed on board and who has safety responsibilities should hold a medical fitness certificate. For those employed on passenger boats that operate no further than 40 miles from a safe haven, a satisfactory report from any registered medical practitioner is acceptable including evidence of satisfactory colour vision. A satisfactory medical practitioner's report is valid for 5 years for those up to age 65 and for two years thereafter.

In the case of passenger boats operating beyond 40 miles from a safe haven the master must have the standard medical fitness certificate for anyone employed at sea, the ENG 11 certificate. This medical certificate is acceptable for any area of operation (unless it includes a specific restriction) and is valid for a maximum of two years, in line with international requirements.

3.3. Radio Qualifications

Every passenger boat, which carries a radio should have at least one person holding a Radio Operator's Certificate suitable for the radio equipment on board and suitable for the area of operation of the vessel.

OPERATIONAL SAFETY MEASURES

(Please note sections 4 to 6 are for guidance purposes only and are not part of the Merchant Shipping (Passenger Boat Manning) Regulations (S.I. No. 649 of 2005))

4. Navigational Watch

It is the responsibility of the master to ensure that there is, at all times, a person with adequate experience in charge of the navigational watch. In taking this decision the Master should take into account all the factors affecting the safety of the vessel, including:-

1. the present and forecast state of the weather, visibility and sea;
2. the proximity of navigational hazards;
3. the density of traffic in the area.

5. RADAR TRAINING

In any vessel that carries radar, the Master and any member of the crew who is liable to use the radar should have appropriate training in its use.

6. STABILITY

The master of a passenger boat, which is required to be provided with an approved stability booklet, should have knowledge of stability appropriate to the vessel.

Your attention is also drawn to the statutory requirements set out in Sections 7 and 8 below

7. ORGANISATION OF WORKING TIME REGULATIONS (European Communities (Merchant Shipping) (Organisation of Working

Time) Regulations 2003 (S.I. NO. 532 of 2003)).

(1) Operators should ensure that all vessels are sufficiently manned to avoid the need to work excessive hours. The master is responsible for ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, that he/she and all crew members are properly rested when they begin work and obtain adequate rest when not on duty.

(2) The minimum hours of rest for anyone employed on board should be not less than:-

(i) 10 hours in any 24 hour period; and

(ii) 72 hours in any seven day period.

(3) Exceptions to paragraph 2 are allowed so long as they are agreed between the master and crew members, and provided that their health and safety, and the safety of the vessel, are not compromised. Such exceptions may take account of more frequent or longer leave periods or the granting of compensatory leave for watchkeeping seafarers or seafarers working on board boats on short voyages.

(4) For boats operating on the basis of watchkeeping arrangements, a schedule of duties shall be drawn up setting out the hours of work and rest periods. In drawing up a schedule, factors to be taken into account may include:

1. type of operation;
2. details of the watchkeeping arrangements;
3. the total workload;
4. the seriousness of irregular working hours and their contribution to causing fatigue and the importance of scheduling reasonable stable working hours.

8. SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE AT WORK PROVISIONS

(1) All employers have a duty to ensure the safety, health and welfare of workers others, so far as is reasonably practicable.

(2) All employers should familiarise themselves with the provisions in relation to the general duties of employers under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.

(3) Employers are required to carry out a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks of the health and safety of workers arising in the normal course of their activities or duties.

9. ARRANGEMENTS FOR OBTAINING CERTIFICATES AND COMMERCIAL ENDORSEMENTS THROUGH BIM

In order to obtain the necessary certificates or commercial endorsement required under the Merchant Shipping (Passenger Boat Manning) Regulations contact should be made as follows:

BIM's Training Services Section

Marine Services Division Training Services Section

Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Irish Sea Fisheries Board
P.O. Box 12
Crofton Road
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin
Tel: + 353 (0) 1-2144100
Fax: + 353 (0) 1-2144254
Email: training@bim.ie
Website: www.bim.ie

Coastal Training Unit no. 1

Tel: (087) 2379778
(087) 6837134
Fax: (087) 2010903
Email: ctu1@bim.ie
mmwb6451@eircom.net
rrwalsh@eircom.net

Coastal Training Unit no. 2

Tel: (087) 2334620
(087) 4158352
Fax: (087) 2011181
Email: ctu2@bim.ie
donohoe@bim.ie
mcginley@bim.ie

National Fisheries College

Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Irish Sea Fisheries Board
Greencastle
Co. Donegal
Ireland.
Tel: +353 (0)74 9381068/9381099
Fax: +353 (0)74 9381278
Email: nfcgreencastle@bim.ie

Regional Fisheries Centre

Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Irish Sea Fisheries Board
The Pier
Castletownbere
Co. Cork
Ireland.
Tel: + 353 (0)27 70450
Fax: +353 (0)27 70858
Email: rfccastletownbere@bim.ie

Director General
Maritime Safety Directorate
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane,
Dublin 2.

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Amended: 27/10/2022

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, email: MSO@transport.gov.ie
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, email:
MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Dept. of Transport, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02
TR60, Ireland.
email: MarineNotices@transport.gov.ie or visit us at: www.gov.ie/transport

Annex 1 Certificates

Class of passenger boat licence		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5			P6			P6 (sail)		
Distance from “safe haven” →		-	-	<15’	<0.5’	< 40’	<150’	>150’	<40’	<150’	>150’	< 40’	<150’	>150’
Certificate required by Master	Passenger Boat Proficiency Certificate	A	A	A	A	A	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-
	Certificates issued by Maritime Safety Directorate ¹	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	A	C	C	A	C	C
Certificate required by Crew	Certificates issued by Maritime Safety Directorate ¹	-	-	-	-	-	A	A	-	A	A	-	A	A

¹ – These certificates typically include fishing and merchant shipping qualifications issued by the Maritime Safety Directorate, Dept. of Transport.

Please note that A and C above refer to the category of commercial endorsement required for the relevant certificates.

Categories for Commercial endorsement issued for BIM Certificates.

Category	Age	Sea Survival	Medical Fitness	First Aid	Service Requirements
A	> 18 Years	PST Certificate	Medical incl. eye test	Elementary First Aid	None
C	> 18 Years	PST Certificate	ENG 11	Proficiency in Medical Care	None

Note 1 Qualifications differing from those tabled, but which could be considered of equal standing, may be considered.

Note 2 In addition to the commercial endorsement, every vessel should carry at least one person holding a Radio Operator's Certificate suitable for the radio equipment on board and suitable for the area of operation of the vessel.

Annex II

CLASSES OF PASSENGER BOAT.

Class P1 Passenger boats with no more than three passengers on board used for domestic voyages in smooth waters in the course of which the passengers are engaged in activities other than those specified in Class P4.

Class P2 Passenger boats with no more than twelve passengers on board used for domestic voyages in smooth waters or in partially smooth waters in the course of which the passengers are engaged in activities other than those specified in Class P4.

Class P3 Passenger boats with no more than twelve passengers on board used for domestic voyages in smooth waters, in partially smooth waters or to sea in the course of which the passenger boats are within fifteen miles (exclusive of any smooth waters or partially smooth waters) from their designated points of departure and within three miles from land.

Class P4 Passenger boats with no more than three passengers on board used for domestic voyages in smooth waters, in partially smooth waters, within harbour limits, or to sea in the course of which the passenger boats are within half a mile (exclusive of any smooth waters or partially smooth waters) from their designated points of departure; provided that the passengers are engaged exclusively in the course of their employment in connection with marine civil engineering, survey of harbour limits, dredging or similar commercial activities.

Class P5 Passenger boats with no more than twelve passengers on board used for domestic voyages in smooth waters, in partially smooth waters or to sea.

Class P6 Passenger boats with no more than twelve passengers on board used for domestic voyages in smooth waters, in partially smooth waters or to sea, in the course of which the passengers are engaged actively and solely in waterborne activities in which the passenger boats form an integral and necessary part of those activities.

Annex III

BIM – Passenger Boat Proficiency Course Syllabus

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

1. Pre Sea Check:

Shore:

- Access and egress from vessel
- Pontoon
- Gangway
- Steps

- Lifejackets (Adults/Children), Anchor with 6ft. Chain, Mooring Lines, Torch, Flares, Sharp Knife, Oars & Rowlock, Roll of Tape, First Aid Kit, Tools or Spanners, Filters, Jubilee Clips, Flexible Hose, Boat Hook, Fuel Filler, Spare Fuel and Shear Pins, Plugs, VHF Radio, Baler/Pump

Pre Sea Precautions:

- Knowledge of Working area (Rocks, Overfalls, Sandbanks)
- Knowledge of local bye-laws
- Itinerary
- Forecast
- Vessel Seaworthiness
- P.P.E.
- Safety Announcement
- Knowledge of basic stability

2. Passage Planning and Pilotage:

Plan a coastal passage with reference to the following;

- Navigational Hazards
- Vessels limitations
- Proper use of GPS
- Proper procedures for entering and leaving port
- Knowledge of the relevant collision regulations
- Tides
- Buoyage

3. Manoeuvring/Boat handling:

- Steer a passenger boat
- Maintain a given heading
- Steer by Transit
- Respond to Helm orders
- Hold off a buoy
- Pick up a buoy
- Turn short around
- Emergency stop

4. *Mooring & Anchoring:*

- **Prepare mooring rope**
- **Secure Fenders**
- **Make fast mooring line**
- **Secure means of access**
- **Let go mooring line**
- **Stow mooring lines and fenders**
- **Prepare anchor to let go**
- **Let go anchor**
- **Attach to anchor buoy**
- **Heave anchor**
- **Secure anchor**

5. *Towing:*

- **Make fast a towline**
- **Use correct length and type of towline**
- **Shorten a tow**
- **Tow a vessel alongside**

6. *Man overboard:*

- **Inform Skipper**
- **Crowd control / evacuation**
- **Position a lookout**
- **Launch lifering or Buoyancy aid**
- **Deploy rescue line and quoit**
- **Position crew**
- **Manoeuvre vessel to Casualty/Take charge**
- **Take casualty onboard**

7. *Rope work:*

- **Seal rope ends by heat and tape**
- **Bowline**
- **Round Turn and Two Half Hitches**
- **Figure of Eight**
- **Clove Hitch**

Performance Criteria

8. *Outboard Engines:*

- **Start stop outboard engine**
- **Ensure the propeller is in the water and engine gearbox in neutral**
- **Open fuel tank top vent, squeeze line bulb**
- **Fit "Deadman's" lanyard**
- **Start engine (by pull cord or electric start)**
- **Check cooling water is flowing**
- **Engage gearshift and move away from quay wall**
- **Come alongside and disengage gearshift**
- **Stop engine and remove "Deadman's" lanyard**
- **Close fuel tank top vent and remove fuel line from engine**
- **Tilt the outboard engine and engage lock**
- **Explain the safety rules associated with outboard operation**
- **Pollution control**

9. Inboard Engine Procedure

- **Start/Stop Diesel engine**
- **Check lubricating oil levels**
- **Test battery using a hydrometer**
- **Pump Bilges**
- **Check belt tension**
- **Pollution control**

10. Emergency Procedures

- **Crowd control**
- **Loss of engines / steering**
- **Collision**
- **Grounding**
- **Accident to passenger**
- **Fire**
- **Life Saving Appliances**
- **Beaching**
- **Handling disabled passengers**
- **Use of Fire fighting appliances**