



TP 15096E
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Fishing Vessels - Masters and Watchkeeping Officers



What You Should Know ...

MASTER OF FISHING VESSELS

The *Marine Personnel Regulations* (MPR) came into effect on July 1, 2007. They require the master of **any fishing vessel** to hold:

- a Master's certificate;
- a Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP) training certificate;
- a Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC); or
- a declaration of at least seven fishing seasons as master of a fishing vessel of up to 15 gross tonnage or not more than 12 meters in length overall.

Requirements depend on the gross tonnage (GT) and length overall (LOA) of your vessel, and the type of voyage you make.

PHASE-IN DATES

The requirements to hold a certificate, a training certificate or a declaration of at least seven fishing seasons for the master and any other person in charge of the deck watch come into effect on the date shown in the table below.

Vessels	Required Beginning
Vessels with LOA of over 15 m (49 ft 02 in)	November 7, 2008
Vessels with LOA of over 14 m (45 ft 11 in)	November 7, 2009
Vessels with LOA of over 13 m (42 ft 08 in)	November 7, 2010
Vessels with LOA of over 12 m (39 ft 04 in)	November 7, 2012
Vessels with LOA of over 6 m (19 ft 08 in)	November 7, 2015
Vessels of all lengths	November 7, 2016

Note: The length overall is the distance between the foremost point and the aftermost point of your vessel. To measure your length overall, you must include aft deck extensions (platforms). Do not include the bulbous bow.

PERSONS CERTIFIED TO KEEP WATCH

The MPR state that only a person who holds certain certificates may keep the deck watch at sea. Any time the master himself cannot keep watch—for example when resting—only a person holding the proper certificate may replace him/her.

In the case of fishing vessels of up to 15 gross tonnage or not more than 12 meters in length overall, the person who already had at least seven fishing seasons of experience before July 1, 2007, may hold only a *Declaration of at least seven fishing seasons as officer in charge of the deck watch of a fishing vessel of up to 15 gross tonnage or not more than 12 meters in length overall* to replace the master for keeping the deck watch.

This requirement will phase in on the same date the master must hold a certificate or a Declaration of seven fishing seasons, as shown in the previous table.

TYPES OF CERTIFICATES

Different types of certificates and declarations may allow a master or officer of a fishing vessel to meet *Marine Personnel Regulations* (MPR) requirements.

Certificates of competency include *Fishing Master, Fourth Class*, and *Watchkeeping Officer of a fishing vessel of less than 24 meters in length overall*. To get these certificates, you must pass exams and meet other training and physical fitness requirements (see Table 1, at the back of this pamphlet). You must renew these certificates every five years as well as hold a medical certificate, which is valid for two years.

Certificates of service include *Certificate of service as Master of a fishing vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage* and *Certificate of Service as Watchkeeping mate of a fishing vessel of less than 24 metres in length overall*. These certificates are for people who already have at least 12 months of service before the MPR came into force (before July 1, 2007). To get a certificate of service as master, you must have experience as master. For the certificate of service as watchkeeping mate, you must have experience keeping watch. Some training is also required. Training depends on whether you have at least seven fishing seasons or less than seven fishing seasons (see Table 2). You must renew these certificates every five years.

The **Small Vessel Operator Proficiency training certificate (SVOP)** is obtained by taking a 26-hour training course at a recognized institution (see Table 3). The SVOP is valid for life.

The **Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC)** is accepted only on fishing vessels operating in sheltered waters or within two nautical miles from shore, near coastal voyage, class 2 (see Table 3). The PCOC is valid for life.

DECLARATION OF AT LEAST SEVEN FISHING SEASONS FOR EXPERIENCED FISHERMEN

If you already had at least seven fishing seasons before July 1, 2007, and work on a fishing vessel of not more than 15 gross tonnage or not more than 12 meters in length overall, you are not required to hold a certificate if you fish within 25 nautical miles from shore and, in certain cases, within 50 nautical miles from shore (see Table 3).

You may complete and keep on board a Declaration of at least seven fishing seasons along with official documents such as testimonial(s) of sea service, letter from an association or owner, discharge book or fisherman's booklet as proof of seven fishing seasons acquired before July 1, 2007. If you do not hold such documents, you must have a Commissioner of Oaths authenticate your Declaration form.

CLASSES OF VOYAGES

The *Vessel Certificates Regulations* contain the complete definitions of the different classes of voyages. Of most interest to fishermen are:

- **Near coastal voyage, class 1:** within 200 nautical miles from shore and up to the edge of the continental shelf, when the shelf is at over 200 nautical miles; and
- **Near coastal voyage, class 2:** within 25 nautical miles from shore.

MARINE EMERGENCY DUTIES (MED) COURSES

The MPR require all members of the minimum complement of a vessel to hold a training certificate in marine emergency duties. The members of the minimum complement are listed in the vessel's *Safe Manning Document*. Here are the Marine Emergency Duties requirements for fishing vessels:

- For fishing vessels on a voyage beyond 25 nautical miles, members of the minimum complement must hold a training certificate in MED A1.
- For fishing vessels of up to 15 gross tonnage or not more than 12 meters in length overall that do not have a minimum manning document, the master and at least one other crew member must hold at least a training certificate in MED A3, if the master does not fish alone.
- For fishing vessels of more than 15 gross tonnage and up to 150 gross tonnage that fish within 25 nautical miles from shore, members of the minimum complement must hold at least a training certificate in MED A3.

PERSON DESIGNATED TO PROVIDE FIRST AID ON BOARD

The MPR require that at least one person be designated to provide first aid on board each fishing vessel. This person must hold at least a valid Marine Basic First Aid training certificate or a valid certificate from a two-day first aid course recognized by a province or a territory.

RADIOTELEPHONE OPERATOR CERTIFICATES

Any person who uses a radiotelephone must hold at least a restricted radiotelephone certificate. To qualify for a Certificate of Competency, you should hold the *Restricted Operator's Certificate – Maritime Commercial* (ROC-MC). To obtain a Certificate of Service, you may present a *Restricted Operator Certificate with Maritime Qualification* (ROC-M) obtained after January 1, 2005, but it will be valid only for voyages no more than 25 nautical miles from shore.

To learn more, please contact your local Transport Canada Marine Safety Centre and visit the web address below:

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/regions.htm>

NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR FISHING VESSELS – MASTERS AND WATCHKEEPING OFFICERS

Table 1

Certificates of Competency	
Column 1	Column 2
Fishing Master, Fourth Class	Watchkeeping Mate of a fishing vessel of less than 24 metres in length overall
Validity Valid as master, fishing vessel of not more than 100 gross tonnage and as officer in charge of the deck watch, fishing vessels of unlimited tonnage, near coastal voyage, Class 1	Validity Valid as officer in charge of the watch on a fishing vessel of less than 24 metres in length overall, near coastal voyage, class 1 in Canada, United States and St-Pierre and Miquelon Valid as master of a fishing vessel of up to 15 gross tonnage or not more than 12 meters in length overall, near coastal voyage, class 2 or sheltered waters
Service 12 months of sea service, deck duties, fishing vessel of at least 6 meters	Service 6 months of sea service, deck duties, fishing vessel of at least 6 meters
Medical Hold a valid marine medical certificate or a provisional marine medical certificate	Medical Hold a valid marine medical certificate or a provisional marine medical certificate
MED Marine emergency duties with respect to basic safety (MED A1)	MED Marine emergency duties with respect to basic safety (MED A1)
ROC-MC Restricted Operator Certificate (ROC-MC)	ROC-MC Restricted Operator Certificate (ROC-MC)
SEN Simulated Electronic Navigation, limited course (SEN-Limited)	SEN Simulated Electronic Navigation, limited course (SEN-Limited)
First Aid Marine advanced first aid training	First Aid Marine basic first aid training
Exams Pass the following exams: • Chartwork and pilotage, level 1; • Navigation safety, level 1; • Ship construction and stability, level 1; • Oral examination on general seamanship knowledge.	Exams Pass the following exams: • Chartwork and navigation safety; • Oral examination on general seamanship and stability.

Table 2

Certificates of Service	
Column 1	Column 2
Certificate of service as Master of a fishing vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage	Certificate of service as Watchkeeping Mate of a fishing vessel of less than 24 metres in length overall
Validity Valid as master of a fishing vessel of less than 60 gross tonnage Voyages as specified on the certificate in accordance with experience	Validity Valid as officer in charge of the deck watch on a fishing vessel of less than 24 metres in length overall Voyages as specified on the certificate in accordance with experience
Service 12 months of service acquired before July 1, 2007 as master, fishing vessels of at least 15 gross tonnage or at least 12 meters in length overall	Service 12 months of service acquired before July 1, 2007 as watchkeeping person, fishing vessels of at least 15 gross tonnage or at least 12 meters in length overall
Medical No medical certificate required	Medical No medical certificate required
MED Marine emergency duties with respect to basic safety (MED A1)	MED Marine emergency duties with respect to basic safety (MED A1)
ROC-MC Restricted Operator Certificate (ROC-MC). A Restricted Operator Certificate (with maritime qualifications) (ROC-M) obtained after January 1, 2005 is accepted but will limit the certificate of service validity to voyages not beyond 25 nautical miles from shore	ROC-MC Restricted Operator Certificate (ROC-MC). A Restricted Operator Certificate (with maritime qualifications) (ROC-M) obtained after January 1, 2005 is accepted but will limit the certificate of service validity to voyages not beyond 25 nautical miles from shore
SEN Simulated Electronic Navigation, limited course (SEN-Limited) * See note below this column	SEN Simulated Electronic Navigation, limited course (SEN-Limited) * See note below this column
First Aid Marine basic first aid training * See note below this column	First Aid Marine basic first aid training * See note below this column
SVOP Small vessel operator proficiency training certificate * See note below this column	SVOP Small vessel operator proficiency training certificate * See note below this column
Notes *Note: Not compulsory if the candidate has acquired at least 7 fishing seasons as master before July 1, 2007	Notes *Note: Not compulsory if the candidate has acquired at least 7 fishing seasons as watchkeeping person before July 1, 2007

Table 3

Small Vessel Operator Proficiency Training Certificate and Pleasure Craft Operator Card		Exemption
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Small Vessel Operator Proficiency Training Certificate * See note below this column	Pleasure Craft Operator Card * See note below this column	Declaration form of at least 7 fishing seasons
Validity Valid as master of a fishing vessel of up to 15 gross tonnage or not more than 12 meters in length overall, near coastal voyage, class 2, (maximum 25 nautical miles from shore) The validity of this certificate may also be extended up to 50 nautical miles from shore, within a specific area, compatible with experience, if the holder has been fishing beyond 25 nautical miles from shore before July 1, 2007	Validity Valid as master of a fishing vessel of up to 15 gross tonnage or not more than 12 meters in length overall • Sheltered waters voyages • Voyages up to 2 nautical miles from shore, near coastal voyage, class 2	Validity Valid as master or officer as the case may be, of a fishing vessel of up to 15 gross tonnage or not more than 12 meters in length overall, near coastal voyage, class 2 The validity of this declaration may also be extended up to 50 nautical miles from shore, within a specific area, compatible with experience, if the holder has been fishing beyond 25 miles from shore before July 1, 2007
Service No service required	Service No service required	Service At least 7 fishing seasons as master or officer of a fishing vessel before July 1, 2007
Medical No medical certificate required	Medical No medical certificate required	Medical No medical certificate required
Course Follow the approved small vessel operator proficiency training course at a recognized institution	Course Contact an accredited course provider in order to obtain a card	Course No course required
Notes *Note: Not compulsory if the applicant has acquired at least 7 fishing seasons as master before July 1, 2007 (See column 3)	Notes *Note: Not compulsory if the applicant has acquired at least 7 fishing seasons as master before July 1, 2007 (See column 3)	Notes *Note: Proof of service to be kept onboard the vessel along with the declaration form or only the form authenticated by a Commissioner of oaths

Learn what requirements apply to your situation by using the online guide on the following web site:

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/mpsp-fvmwo-menu-3500.htm>