



# Crew Certification

## Information for fishing lodge operators and outfitters in Manitoba

All operators and crew of power-driven boats must have Transport Canada accredited safety training. By completing marine safety courses, boat operators and crews gain valuable skills to operate their boats safely and prepare them to handle emergencies while on the water.

### Pleasure craft

Under the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*, all operators of powered pleasure craft must carry proof of competency on board at all times. In Canada, the most common form of [proof of competency for recreational boaters](#) is the Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC). Visitors to Canada may use an operator card or equivalent from their home state or country. Boaters operating power-driven rental vessels who do not have a PCOC or equivalent may complete a rental boat safety checklist with the boat provider and this will act as proof of competency for the duration of the rental. The Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association has published a [rental boat safety checklist](#) that you may use or adapt as required.

### Commercial vessels

There are specific training requirements for commercial boat operators and crews and these requirements are based on the size of the vessel and where it will be operated. The table below outlines the requirements for vessels less than 5 Gross Tonnage (about 8.5 m in length for a monohull vessel) operating on fresh water in Manitoba. If you operate outside of this category, please refer to Transport Canada's [Small Commercial Vessel Safety Guide](#) for information that applies to you.

In addition to the training outlined in the table below, at least one crew member must hold a valid certificate in Marine Basic First Aid or have completed a minimum two-days first aid training course recognized by a province or territory.

| Operator and crew certification (boats less than 5 GT)  |  |  |                                       |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Note: <b>Red bolded text applies to operators only</b> and <i>blue italicized text applies to both operators and crew</i> |  |  |                                       |
|   | Near Coastal, Class 2<br>> 2 NM from shore   | Near Coastal, Class 2<br>< 2 NM from shore | Sheltered Waters                      |
| More than 8 m or more than six passengers   | <b>Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP)</b><br><i>Marine Emergency Duties (MED A3)</i> |  |                                       |
| Less than 8 m and no more than six passengers   | <b>SVOP</b><br><i>MED A3</i>   |  | <b>PCOC</b><br><i>Familiarization</i> |
| Less than 8 m and no passengers   | <b>SVOP</b><br><i>MED A3</i>   | <b>PCOC</b><br><i>Familiarization</i>      |                                       |

More information on crew certification can be found in the [Safe Boating Guide](#) and the [Small Commercial Vessel Safety Guide](#), which are available on Transport Canada's website; the [Small Vessel Regulations](#) are available on Justice Canada's website.



## Glossary to supplement crew certification information for fishing lodge operators and outfitters in Manitoba

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Pleasure craft                | A vessel used for pleasure, recreation or daily living. Boats rented out or loaned to clients to operate on their own are also considered pleasure craft.   |
| Commercial vessel             | Non-pleasure boats operated by lodge staff or guides with or without passengers onboard.  |
| Sheltered Waters Voyage       | A voyage that is on a lake or river above tidal waters where your vessel can never be further than 2.5 nautical miles from shore. Between July 1 and August 31, Manitoba's Churchill River and approaches, extending to an area five miles in radius seaward of Merry Rock, are considered to be Sheltered Waters.  |
| Near Coastal Voyage, Class 2  | A voyage, other than a Sheltered Waters Voyage, where the boat is always within 25 nautical miles from shore.   |
| Marine Emergency Duties (MED) | This course covers emergency procedures aboard a vessel. There are various MED levels. MED A3, which can be completed over an eight-hour course, is the standard requirement for small vessels. Crew members can work on board for up to six months before completing the required training.  |
| Familiarization               | <p>For crew: The boat operator and crew members must be familiar with the boat layout, its operating procedures and the location and proper use of safety and emergency equipment. All crew members must complete this familiarization training before working on board.</p> <p>For passengers: All passengers on board must receive a safety briefing before leaving the dock. The purpose of this briefing is to familiarize passengers with safety equipment and emergency procedures.</p> |
| Gross tonnage (GT)            | A measure of a ship's overall internal volume that is used to determine the rules and regulations that apply to the vessel. Information on <a href="#">tonnage measurements</a> that may help you calculate the GT of your vessel(s) is available on Transport Canada's website. Generally, vessels that are less than 8.5 metres in length are considered to be less than 5 GT.  |
| Nautical mile (NM)            | A unit of distance equal to 1,852 metres, 1.15 miles or 6,076.2 feet.   |