

Frequently asked questions about the "Pleasure Craft Operators Card"

See other side
for Course Dates

By Rod & Marianne Nuttall

Is certification mandatory for boaters?

Yes! Mandatory boating safety certification is in effect NOW for operators of power boats. See below.

When do I need to have my "Card":

Everyone must have it Now.

- The final phase came into effect on Sept. 15, 2009 where any person, any age operating any size of a power boat

Why do we need Boating Safety training?

- Reducing accidents and fatalities is the goal. There are an average of 200 fatalities per year and an estimated 6000 non-fatal boating accidents involving serious personal injuries or property loss.
- Statistics show uneducated boaters experience 5 times as many fatalities as educated boaters.

I've been boating all my life, why do I need this now?

After teaching over 17,000 people, we have encountered many people with a wide range of boating experience.

- Even very experienced boaters find they learn something new and find the course a good refresher.
- Regulations have changed, you may not be aware of the changes.
- The RCMP & OPP, who deal with serious boating accidents, tell us that most boaters don't understand right of way rules and buoys and markers. The lack of knowledge in these two areas is the cause of many accidents.
- While we recommend the course, experienced boaters can take the refresher or challenge the exam if they are confident of their knowledge. We strongly recommend reading the course manual.

Why small boats first?

Many boaters are surprised that smaller boat operators had to have their "card" first. The reasons are simple.

- The smaller boats are where majority of the fatalities happen.
- A smaller boat is more sensitive to how it is loaded and susceptible to changes in wind, weather and waves. Ignoring these points in a small boat can be dangerous.

What is covered in the course?

- new mandatory equipment requirements
- regulations impacting boaters
- dealing with emergencies such as hypothermia, capsizing, grounding; how to call for help and indicate distress
- understanding aids to navigation (buoys, markers)
- right of way rules; identifying hazards . . . And much more!

What happens if I don't have my "Card"?

- You may be fined \$250 if you do not have your "Card"
- Also, your insurance may be invalid. The new regulations make it similar to car insurance - no license - no coverage. Check with your insurance agent. Be sure that anyone who uses your boat has their "Card" if required.

How long is the "Card" good for?

- The Pleasure Craft Operators "Card" is good for life.

At what age can children take the course & test?

- We have taught students as young as 8 years of age - all did extremely well. We recommend youth take a course rather than challenging the exam.

The best approach is for the whole family to take the course together.

What kind of exam is it?

There are 36 multiple choice questions (until April 15, 2011). After April 15th, 2011 Transport Canada is changing the test to be 50 questions. The pass mark is 75%. The passing rate of students taking our course is very high.

Where can I take a course?

Boaters can register for our courses held in Winnipeg and rural areas. See the other side of this flyer for course dates & locations. Call for a new schedule or check our Website: www.nuttallboatingsafety.com

Book your own course! Many people have asked us to set up courses for family, friends or club members. You can make it a fun event for your group. All you need is a minimum of 12 to 15 people.

What's the difference between Boating Safety courses?

Not all Boating Safety instructors have the same experience! Learn from instructors who have extensive experience that can give real life examples. It makes it easy to learn and fun for boaters with all levels of experience. Rod & Marianne Nuttall are certified instructors each with over 45 years of boating experience in both power and sail boats; inland and ocean waters.

We have certified over 17,000 boaters in Manitoba and NW Ontario since the inception of this program in 1999.

Here are comments from their students:

- "I learned quite a few things . . . and I thought I was an "old hand."
- "Great course !!!"

. . . the best feature of the course?

- "the practical real life examples make it simple to understand"
- "knowledge of instructors & ability to answer all questions"
- "knowledgeable, fun, interesting"

What about an online exam?

Some providers offer online exams. You can get your card this way but you will likely not learn much and the cost savings are minimal and the process can be cumbersome. So it defeats the entire purpose of the program. Be aware, with changes to the regulations to reduce cheating, fraud etc., you can not write an online exam in your own residence and you must have an approved proctor supervise the writing of your exam.

What about licensing my boat?

Any power driven-boat with an engine 10 HP or larger must license their boat. A licensed boat will have numbers painted on the front and carry a copy of the license. Licensing is done through Service Canada (Phone 1-800-O-CANADA) or www.servicecanada.gc.ca/en/sc/boats/pcl.shtml

What about Commercial boaters?

- Anyone who works on a boat requires certification. Some smaller commercial boats may use the Pleasure Craft Operators Card training in lieu of other Commercial training (e.g., MED, SVOP etc.)
- Call us or Transport Canada for clarification. Transport Canada recommends all Commercial operators take a comprehensive course (6 hour basic is a recommended option).