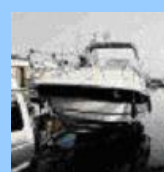


International Certificate of Competence ('ICC')



Each year we are approached by many people who wish to achieve their International Certificate of Competence ('ICC') so that they can either use their own craft or charter abroad (most commonly in Spain or France). In this *Information Sheet* we hope to: Detail the various types of ICC available; show you how you get your ICC; explain the ICC Practical Test; explain how you get the Inland Endorsement; clarify who is entitled to ICCs and their discuss validity abroad. We have also included the ICC form for you to apply with. Please do not hesitate to call us for more information or to discuss your specific needs.

What 'types' of ICC are available?

There are four 'types' of ICC available:

- Power less than 10m
- Power less than 24m
- Sail (includes Power less than 10m)
- Personal Watercraft

Inland endorsements are available on each of these types of ICCs

How do I obtain an ICC?

You can obtain an ICC in two ways:

- Submit a copy of an appropriate RYA Course Certificate to the RYA. Or..
- Undertake and successfully pass an ICC test

Appropriate RYA Certificates for ICC applications are:

	Coastal	Inland	Power		Personal Watercraft	Sail
			< 24m	< 10m		< 24m
		<i>See note!</i>				
RYA Powerboat Level 2 (Coastal)	Yes	Yes		Yes		
RYA Powerboat Level 2 (Inland)	No	Yes		Yes		
RYA Dayskipper Practical (Power)	Yes	Yes	Yes			
RYA Motor Cruising Helmsman	No	Yes	Yes			
RYA Dayskipper Practical (Sail)	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes
RYA Personal Watercraft Certificate	Yes	Yes			Yes	

NB: This table is an abridged version of the one that appears on the ICC form. See later.

Note: To be used on Inland Waterways the CEVNI endorsement is required – see later section.

The ICC Practical Test

What is the ICC test?

In the ICC form later in this document you will find the syllabus for the ICC test. Put simply, the ICC Practical Test tests that your knowledge is at the level of the Powerboat Level 2 Certificate (for <10m ICCs), or the Dayskipper Practical (Power) Certificate (for <24m ICCs).

The Assessor will structure a test that requires you to demonstrate your ability in respect of practical boat handling but also your knowledge of a variety of areas such as navigation, pilotage, passage planning etc.

The Assessor's job is to ascertain that you have the knowledge and capability to justify award of the ICC. He/she will not attempt to catch you out or set you tasks beyond your ability but they do expect you to be able to successfully and safely demonstrate the practical tasks detailed later in this document. The Assessor appreciates that when manouvering a craft not everything always goes right first time. If you do make a mistake then he/she will be looking for a rapid realisation that things aren't going right then a correction of the mistake followed by successful execution of the task. A repeated need to undertake the tasks again is unlikely to lead to award of the Certificate. Likewise, with areas such as the Collision Regulations, Charts and Tides etc a repeated failure to successfully answer questions is unlikely to lead to an award of the Certificate.

Why choose to undertake an ICC test rather than complete the relevant RYA course?

For < 10m ICCs: You wouldn't! If you were to undertake an assessment you would choose to undertake the Powerboat Level 2 Assessment and use the certificate to apply for your ICC. In this way you get the ICC and the Level 2.

For <24m ICCs: The option to be assessed to achieve the RYA Dayskipper Practical certificate is not available so you either take the 4 day Dayskipper Practical course or undertake an assessment. For those individuals already possessing good boat handling and theory competence schools (us included) tend to run 1, 2 or 3 day bespoke courses including the ICC assessment. In this way the ICC can usually be achieved more quickly than by taking the Dayskipper course. This is not a suitable option for everyone – please call to discuss. Realistically this option is only financially viable if we are using your boat as rarely do we have enough people all of the same level, at the same time, wanting to do such a course on our motor cruiser.

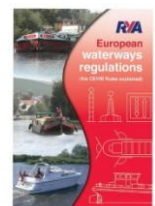
Please note that an ICC test to achieve the <24m ICC must be on a boat over 10m, if the boat is less than 10m then the <10m ICC will be issued.

Can we take the ICC test on your school boat?

Yes.

Inland Endorsements

To achieve the Inland Endorsement you need to undertake a CEVNI test. The CEVNI test is conducted by the Test Centre and requires you to answer about 20 multiple choice questions on the regulations surrounding boating on the inland waterways of Europe. The test will take you about 10-15 minutes, to stand a chance of passing you will need to read the RYA European Waterways Regulations Handbook. This book contains all of the information you need and some sample questions.



RYA European Waterways
Regulations: The CEVNI Rules
Explained

Who can apply for an ICC?

Individuals intending to obtain the International Certificate of Competence are advised that RYA 'rules' state: *"This certificate is available only to British citizens and bona fide British Residents over the age of 16. Evidence of residency for non-citizens will be required in the form of a photocopy of a driving licence, utility bill, Council Tax bill or bank statement etc. Further authenticated evidence of residency for non-citizens may be required. The ICC is acceptable for British citizens or residents using a British flagged vessel for leisure. Other countries may accept the ICC for their native flagged vessels."*

Frequently asked questions

Q: How long does it take to get the ICC once I've sent it to the RYA?.

A: This depends on the time of year that you apply. At quieter times turnaround at the RYA is very quick whereas understandably at certain times of the year when demand is higher it could take a few weeks. We suggest that if possible you join the RYA in advance of applying and if necessary pay to 'Fast Track' the application. If necessary you can actually go to the RYA offices in the Hamble, pay the Fast Track fee and they will usually do it while you wait. We suggest you call the RYA to confirm this is feasible on the day you intend visiting though.

Q: Do I need to be an RYA Member to get an ICC?

A: No. That said if you are a RYA member the certificate is free. As a non member you pay a fee greater than the membership fee so you may as well join!

Q: Do I need to renew it and if I do, do I need to be re-assessed?

A: You need to renew every 5 years. This is just a form filling exercise though and you do not need to be re-assessed.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: For 2009 the ICC fee is £39 whereas the membership fee for an individual is about £35.

Q: Is it valid everywhere?

A: Good question! A common misunderstanding is that your ICC gives you rights to boat in certain locations. Our understanding is that the ICC is evidence of your competence and is not technically an international boat driving licence as such. It is up to countries and areas within countries to decide whether they will accept the ICC as proof of capability. Our advice is to check first if you are basing any travel plans on the assumptions that the ICC will be accepted – we are yet to come across any issues in Europe though.. Equally, do bear in mind that this is not a commercial qualification.

For more information visit www.rya.org.uk/KnowledgeBase/boatingabroad/icc/Pages/ICC.aspx

Q: If I am applying using a RYA Certificate does the School/Instructor need to sign the form?

A: No. This is a common misunderstanding at many schools. If you are applying using a Certificate as evidence of competence then just send a photocopy of the certificate and complete section 11a. If you have undertaken the CEVNI test (for inland use) we will need to sign the form though.