

Marine Personnel Regulations and resulting changes in:

- **MED & First Aid Training Requirements for fishing vessel crewmembers (including masters)**
- **Certification Requirements for Masters of fishing vessels up to 60 tons GT**

The **Marine Personnel Regulations** came into force, July 1, 2007 and set out requirements for certification of personnel on vessels.

First, MED training for crewmembers (including masters):

The regulations address **Marine Emergency Duties (MED)** training requirements for crewmembers (including masters).

205. (3) *The master and the authorized representative of a vessel described in column 1 of the table [below] to this subsection shall ensure that every member of the complement who is required to be on board in order for the vessel to meet the safe manning requirements [...] obtains, before acquiring a total of 6 months of sea service, at least one of the training certificates in marine emergency duties set out as applicable in columns 2 to 4 of that item or, if applicable, the Pleasure Craft Operator Card referred to in column 5.*

Table (simplified and abbreviated for fishing vessels only):

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Vessel Type and Voyage Classification	MED with respect to basic safety (A1)	MED with respect to small passenger vessel safety (A2)	MED with respect to small non-pleasure vessel basic safety (A3)	Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC)
A fishing vessel not more than 15 gross tonnage engaged on voyages not more than two nautical miles from shore (or sheltered waters voyages)	X	X	X	X
A fishing vessel not more than 150 gross tonnage engaged on a voyage less than 25 nautical miles from shore	X	X	X	
A fishing vessel engaged on a voyage beyond limits of a near coastal voyage, Class 2	X	X		

Note that the MED requirements are tied into safe manning requirements – which we don't fully understand. For some fishing vessels, a safe manning document will specify the number of crew "required to be on board" and "In case of vessels that do not require a safe manning document, for the purpose of [MED training], all members of the complement are deemed to be required to be on board in order for the vessel to meet the safe manning requirements". (see Ship Safety Bulletin 11/2007).

Presumably this means all crewmembers need an appropriate MED training certificate. Deadline for compliance is April 1, 2008. Fishermen wishing to pursue any master certification are advised to check the requirements for that certification to ensure any MED course they take meets same.

Regarding **First Aid Training**, the regulations require that the authorized representative of a vessel ensure that at least one person on board be qualified and designated to provide first aid. *Sec. 207. (3) (g) If the vessel's voyages are limited to Near Coastal Class 2 (within 25 nautical miles from shore and within 100 miles from a place of refuge) a **Marine Basic First Aid** certificate is acceptable qualification. For voyages beyond that, a **Marine Advanced First Aid** certificate is required Sec. 205. (9)*

Moving onto masters of fishing vessels up to 60 GT;

In addition to the MED and first aid requirements, the regulations require that every fishing vessel have a master on board and in order to act as master, persons shall meet certain certification requirements.

Under the regulations, certification requirements for masters of fishing vessels up to 60 GT differ based on vessel size, voyage and master's experience. While the preferred **Fishing Master First, Second, Third and Forth Class** certificates remain available and valid as before, the **Marine Personnel Regulations** introduce three new certificates that may be of interest to some fishermen with smaller vessels on limited voyages. Be aware of the limited validity of each of these certificates.

Continued next page.

To act as master on a fishing vessel up to 60 GT;

A **Certificate of Service as Master of a Fishing Vessel of Less than 60 Gross Tonnage** is available to experienced masters who have:

- At least 12 months of sea service acquired before July 1, 2007 (the coming into force of the Regulations) as master of one or more fishing vessels of at least 15 gross tonnage or 12 m overall length while engaged on voyages that the certificate sought shall permit.
- Completed a MED course with respect to Basic Safety (MED A1).
- Obtained an appropriate radio operator certificate.

In addition, if the applicant has not acquired at least seven fishing seasons of experience as master of one or more fishing vessels, with no two of those seasons having occurred in the same year, the applicant will also have to complete:

- (i) SEN, Limited,
- (ii) marine basic first aid, and
- (ii) small vessel operator proficiency.(SVOP)

Note that this certificate of service will only be available until July 1, 2017 (10 years after the regulations came into force). The validity of the Certificate will be specified on the certificate, but effectively should allow the holder to continue operating a < 60 GT vessel within the limits of trade established by his or her qualifying sea service. *Sec. 212 Table 2 & Sec. 143.*

To act as master on a fishing vessel up to 15 GT or not more than 12 m OAL no further than 25 miles offshore;

Experienced skippers who have acquired at least 7 fishing seasons as master of a fishing vessel before the coming into force of the Regulations are not required to hold any "master" certificate in order to act as master on an up to 15 GT or 12 m vessel on Near Coastal Class 2 voyages (within 25 nautical miles from shore and within 100 miles from a place of refuge). *Sec. 212 (8)*

Otherwise, A **Small Vessel Operator Proficiency Training Certificate (SVOP)** is available to all who complete an approved SVOP Training program. The SVOP is valid to operate a fishing vessel up to 15GT or 12 m overall length on Near Coastal Voyage, Class 2. *Sec. 212 Table 2*

To act as master on a fishing vessel up to 15 GT or 12 m OAL no further than 2 miles offshore or sheltered waters voyage;

A **Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC)** will be available to all who pass the PCOC exam. The card will be valid to operate a fishing vessel up to 15GT or 12 m overall length and on a voyage not more than two nautical miles from shore. *Sec. 212 Table 2*

The regulations provide a lengthy phase-in time for master certification for fishing vessels as follows: *Sec. 212 (1)*

Fishing Vessel description	Implementation Date
more than 60 gross tonnage	Already required
60 gross tonnage or less and more than 15 m in overall length;	November 7, 2008
more than 14 m in overall length but no more than 15 m;	November 7, 2009
more than 13 m in overall length but no more than 14 m;	November 7, 2010
more than 12 m in overall length but no more than 13 m;	November 7, 2012
more than 6 m in overall length but no more than 12 m	November 7, 2015
6 m or less	November 7, 2016

Please understand that this information is based on our best understanding of a small part of these lengthy and complicated regulations as they apply to a typical small fishing vessel. Particular vessels may have additional crew and/or certification requirements. Examples may include additional engineering, deck, radio, and/or emergency watch requirements. In the end, the regulations are the law. For further information on these or any other Transport Canada Regulations, or for information specific to your vessel and operation, contact your nearest Transport Canada – Marine Safety office.

- Nanaimo (250) 754-0244
- Prince Rupert (604) 627-3045
- Vancouver (604) 666-5470
- Victoria (250) 363-0394

And/or, check out Transport Canada's Regulation Query System at www.tc.gc.ca/MarineSafety/RQS_Query

And finally, please be advised that these regulations are Canadian regulations, not insurance requirements.

Lee Varseveld,

March 13, 2008