



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref: SM6/6/1
SM10/1/3/6

Date: 20 December 2016

Marine Circular No. 10 of 2016

Certificates of competence for coxswains of NSRI rescue vessels and familiarisation training for crew members

TO THE NATIONAL SEA RESCUE INSTITUTE, SAMSA EXAMINERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, AND THE REGISTRAR OF SEAFARERS

Marine Circular 6 of 2013 is hereby cancelled

Summary

This marine circular updates the SAMSA-approved training program for rescue vessel coxswains, as carried out by the National Sea Rescue Institute, which satisfies the requirements for the issue of certificates of competence in terms of the *Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety) Regulations, 2007*. This arrangement superseded the arrangements established under the *Examination Regulations for Certificates of Competency as Coxswain (Rescue Vessels), 1991*.

Additionally, the NSRI have an induction program for crew members which is approved to fulfil the requirements of the *Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety) Regulations 2007* requirements for approved safety induction training.

- 1 The examination arrangements under the *Examination Regulations for Certificates of Competency as Coxswain (Rescue Vessels), 1991* were proved to have been impracticable. SAMSA, in terms of regulation 14 of the *Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety) Regulations, 2007*, and in consultation with the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI), approved a new modular, outcomes based training program for NSRI coxswains, and the NSRI is responsible for executing this program under SAMSA audit.
- 2 The coxswain training program covers the following five classes of rescue vessel coxswains:
 - Class I: Rescue Vessels $\geq 9\text{m}$ in length (but less than 25GT) – inboard diesel driven.
 - Class II: Rescue Vessels $\geq 9\text{m}$ in length (but less than 25GT) - outboard petrol driven.
 - Class III: Rescue Vessels $\leq 9\text{m}$ in length (Category B equivalent).
 - Class IV: Rescue Vessels $\leq 9\text{m}$ in length (Category E equivalent).
 - Class V: Rescue Vessels $\leq 9\text{m}$ in length (Category R equivalent)
- 3 A candidate for the small vessel certificate of competence as skipper with the “Rescue Vessel Coxswain” endorsement must be at least 21 years of age and in the case of Class IV & V coxswains, be at least 18 years of age, and meet the following minimum service criteria:

CLASS V

- 1 year service as a member of an NSRI station;
- 20 hours of boating time under the tutorship of a certified NSRI Coxswain on a Class V vessel;
- Appropriate E-learning courses completed and signed off;
- Practical Task book Completed and Signed off;
- Maritime Emergency care certification (In house First Aid)

CLASS IV

- 1 year service as a member of an NSRI station;
- 50 hours of sea time under the tutorship of a certificated NSRI Coxswain on Class IV vessels
- Appropriate E- Learning courses completed and signed off.
- Practical Task Book Completed and signed off.
- Maritime Emergency Care Certification (In house first aid)
- SRC Certificate

CLASS III

- 2 years' service as a member of an NSRI station, OR, 6 months service as a member of an NSRI station with the balance of the 2 years' service consisting of acceptable sea service on vessels other than rescue vessels;
- 100 hours crew service as a crew member of a rescue vessel, which is to include:
- 50 hours on Class III vessels;
- 10 hours as a trainee coxswain on Class III vessels;
- 20 hours performed during the hours of darkness.
- E Learning completed and signed off.
- Practical Task Books completed and signed off
- In- house independent assessment course complete and passed
- Maritime Emergency Care Certification (In house first aid)
- SRC Certificate

CLASS II

- 50 hours as coxswain of a Class III vessel.

OR

- 2 years' service as a member of an NSRI station, OR, 6 months service as a member of an NSRI station with the balance of the 2 years' service consisting of acceptable sea service on vessels other than rescue vessels;
- 100 hours crew service as a crew member of a rescue vessel, which is to include:
- 50 hours on Class II vessels;
- 10 hours as trainee coxswain on Class II vessels;
- 20 hours performed during the hours of darkness.
- Five Day ENS Certificate.
- Outboard Engine Course. (In house)
- E Learning completed and signed off.
- Practical task book completed and signed off.
- In- house independent assessment course completed and passed
- Maritime Emergency Care Certification (In house first aid)
- SRC Certificate

CLASS I

- 100 hours as coxswain of a Class II vessel;
- 25 hours understudying the operation and maintenance of the engine and associated equipment of a Class I vessel.

OR

- 3 years' service as a member of an NSRI station, OR, 6 months service as a member of an NSRI station with the balance of the 3 years' service consisting of acceptable sea service on vessels other than rescue vessels;
- 150 hours crew service as a crew member of a rescue vessel, which is to include:
- 50 hours on Class I vessels;
- 50 hours as trainee coxswain on Class I vessels:
- 30 hours performed during the hours of darkness;
- 25 hours understudying the operation and maintenance of the engine and associated equipment of a Class I vessel.
- Five Day ENS Certificate.
- E Learning Completed and signed off.
- Practical task book completed and signed off.

- PST Course completion. (In house PST/Liferaft Course)
- Diesel Engineering course completion.
- SRC course completed.
- Maritime Emergency Care Certification (In house first aid)
- In- house independent assessment course completed and passed.

Table of equivalents between SAMSA certificates of competency and NSRI training.

| SAMSA Certificate of Competency | NSRI Training | Comments |
|--|---------------|--|
| Inland waters Category R <9m | Class V | |
| Day Skipper Category E <9m | Class IV | |
| Coastal Skipper <9m | Class III | |
| Coastal Skipper ≥9m Category B Under 25 Gross Tons | Class II | Petrol Driven Outboards Commercial <9m Rescue Vessel ≥9m |
| Coastal Skipper ≥9m Category B Under 25 Gross Tons | Class I | Diesel Driven Inboards Commercial <9m Rescue Vessel ≥9m |

- The Practical part of the coxswain training is in the form of a task book containing several sections. The theoretical part is completed on the Sea Rescue web based E-Learning platform, the results of which are available to SAMSA for auditing at any time. The Practical task books must be completed prior to the issue of any certificate of competence and may be requested by SAMSA for auditing.
- All Candidates have had to attend the applicable in house Coxswain assessment course as a final check using independent assessors, passing the theory with a minimum of 70% and the practical components.
- For rescue vessels equipped with radar and/or life-rafts (Class I), coxswain candidates must also complete, as appropriate, a Life Raft or Personal Survival Techniques (PST) course and an Electronic Navigation Systems course, as approved by SAMSA.
- The examination application form 81/172892 (Z 28) is supplied in (**Annex A**).
- Coxswain certification will take the form of an endorsement to the national certificate of competence as skipper of a small vessel issued in terms of the *Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessels Safety) Regulations, 2007*. The endorsement will show the class of rescue vessel for which the holder is qualified.
- Candidates who are competent as Coxswain Class V will be issued with the certificate of competence as Inland waters, Lagoons estuaries and dam Skipper Category R (less than 9 metres in length). (**Refer to Annex 5**)
- Candidates who are competent as Coxswain Class IV will be issued with the certificate of competence as Day Skipper Category E (less than 9 metres in length). (**Refer to Annex 4**)
- Candidates who are competent as Coxswain Class III will be issued with the certificate of competence as Coastal Skipper (9 metres or less in length) together with the Class III (NSRI) rescue vessel endorsement and, if qualified, also surf launching and diving skipper endorsements (**Refer Annex 1**).
- Any candidate who qualifies as coxswain Class II is entitled to Coastal Skipper (less than 9 metres in length) endorsed skipper on a rescue vessel (9 metres or more in length) and if qualified also surf launching and diving skipper endorsements (**Refer Annex 2**).

13. Any candidate who qualifies as coxswain Class I is entitled to Coastal Skipper (less than 9 metres in length) endorsed skipper on a rescue vessel (9 metres or more in length) and if qualified also surf launching and diving skipper endorsements (Refer **Annex 3**).
14. Candidates will be issued with the certificate of competence as Coastal Skipper (9 metres or more in length), if they comply with all the requirements of Coastal Skipper nine metres or more as detailed in the relevant Marine Notice dealing with Small Vessel Skipper Certification and if they pass the SAMSA oral examination covering the following subject matter:
 - a. Legal implications and provisions of the *Merchant Shipping Act, 1951*, as it applies to vessels under 25 gross tonnage and pleasure vessels under 100 gross tonnage;
 - b. Provisions of the *Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessels Safety) Regulations, 2007*, including provisions relating to drugs and alcohol;
 - c. Requirements relating to the prevention of pollution of the sea by oil, plastics and garbage;
 - d. Preparing a vessel for a safety survey.
15. SAMSA may interview any candidate for the issue of any certificates covered by this marine circular.
16. Approved safety induction training is required for all crew members in accordance with regulation 14(3)(a). The NSRI have a system of training and assessment for the compliance of their rescue boat crew.

The NSRI course *Familiarisation: Pre-sea training, small vessels* as documented in the NSRI publication NSRI-19 has been assessed by SAMSA and found to be suitable. The course is approved as complying with the requirements for approved safety induction training. Candidates are considered to have successfully completed the course if they can show competence as required by section 12 of the NSRI-19 publication. The Station Commander that has overseen the training is responsible for ensuring that certificates are issued to crew and records kept at the station.

The certification included in annexure 6 is the approved format.

20 December 2016

**SM6/6/1
SM10/1/3/6**

Issued by and obtainable from:
**The South African Maritime Safety Authority
146 Lunnon Road
Hillcrest, Pretoria**

**PO Box 13186
Hatfield 0028**

Tel: +27 12 366 2600

Fax: +27 12 366 2601

E-mail: marinenotices@samsa.org.za

Web Site : www.samsa.org.za

ANNEX A
APPLICATION TO THE REGISTRAR FOR THE ISSUE OF A NATIONAL SMALL VESSEL AND COXSWAIN (RESCUE VESSEL) CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE

A. PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF APPLICANT

Surname:

First Names:

Height: Eye Colour: Hair Colour:

Permanent Address: Postal Address

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.....

.....

Telephone No (H) (W) (Cell)

Current certificate held No.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

| | Class V Category R <9m | Class IV Category E <9m | Class III Category B <9m | Class II Category B ≥9m Petrol driven Outboards | Class I Category B ≥9m Diesel Driven Inboards |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Certified Copy of ID Document | X | X | X | X | X |
| Copy of Interim Certificate Issued by SAMSA appointed Examiner – (External) | X | X | X | X | X |
| 2x Photos | X | X | X | X | X |
| Medical (NSRI doctor) | X | X | X | X | X |
| Eye test from registered optometrist | | | X | X | X |
| Proof of NSRI inland water/sea service | X | X | X | X | X |
| Liferaft, PST course (NSRI approved course) | | | | X | X |
| First Aid at Sea, or NSRI approved level 3 | | | | X | X |
| Fire Fighting, Small V/ls SAMSA approved course (one day) | | | | X | X |
| SRC Course | | X | X | X | X |
| Competency attestation from the NSRI for Class of Rescue Vessel | X | X | X | X | X |
| Surf launching qualification (If required) | | X | X | X | X |
| Pleasure vessel ≥ 9m endorsement (If required) | | | | If Class 1 | If Class 1 |

EXAMINERS REPORT

B. NATIONAL CERTIFICATE TO BE ISSUED (Indicate which certificate and/or endorsement the candidate is to be issued)

| SAMSA Certificate of Competence | NSRI Training | Annex | Check |
|---|---------------|-------|-------|
| Inland Skipper Category R < 9m | Class V | 5 | |
| Day Skipper Category E < 9m | Class IV | 4 | |
| Coastal Skipper Category B < 9m | Class III | 1 | |
| Coastal Skipper ≥ 9m Outboard Petrol Driven | Class II | 2 | |
| Coastal Skipper ≥ 9m Inboard Diesel Driven | Class I | 3 | |

Endorsements

- Surf Launching Endorsement
- Diving Vessel Endorsement

C. The following copies of documentation are submitted in support of the application

- 1) Valid Identity Document and two photographs.
- 2) Valid SAMSA or eyesight test.
- 3) Valid Medical or Doctor’s Certificate
- 4) Valid fire-fighting certificate (*If required*)
- 5) Valid life raft certificate (PST) (*If required*)
- 6) Valid First Aid Certificate issued (*If required*)
- 7) Restricted Radiotelephone Operators Certificate issued by ICASA
- 8) NSRI ENS certification (*If required*)
- 9) Competency attestation from the NSRI for Category of Rescue Vessel
- 10) Surf launching certificate attestation
- 11) The prescribed fee.
- 12) Copy of Interim Certificate issued by External SAMSA appointed examiner

I hereby certify that I have checked the sea-time and audited the documents provided by the candidate and am satisfied that the requirements of the national certification policies have been met, and that the particulars contained therein are correct.

D. Exam Results (Nine metre or over skipper certification only)

I further certify that the candidate has been examined in accordance with the policy document pertaining to Rescue Vessel Coxswain’s and was found to be:

- Competent Not yet competent in the oral examination

Signature Printed name Date

Issued at: this day of

E. FOR SAMSA OFFICE USE ONLY

Fee received: Receipt No.: Date:

| | | |
|---|--------------|---|
|  <p style="text-align: center;"> Republic of South Africa CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE Certificate Number SVC-9000001-S <i>Issued To</i> NON SUCH PERSON <i>ID/Passport Number</i> 5559 5559 555 </p> <p>This certificate is issued by the South African Maritime Safety Authority on behalf of the Government of South Africa in terms of the Merchant Shipping Act 1951, (Act No. 57 of 1951, as amended).</p> <p>Dated at Pretoria DD MMMM YYYY</p> <hr/> <p>for CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER</p> | PHOTO | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Type and Category of Vessels Involved</i></p> <p>CATEGORY B VESSELS < 9M AND ANY NON PASSENGER VESSEL ON INLAND WATERS IN SOUTH AFRICA, DAY OR NIGHT</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Level of Competence</i></p> <p>‘COASTAL SKIPPER LIMITED TO 40 NAUTICAL MILES FROM SHORE; PROCEEDING TO SEA FROM A COMMERCIAL HARBOUR, FISHING HARBOUR, OR A PROTECTED LAUNCH SITE.’</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Additional Endorsement/s</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ‘COMPETENT TO ACT AS A SKIPPER OF A CLASS (III) RESCUE VESSEL.’ 2. ‘COMPETENT TO LAUNCH THROUGH THE SURF FROM A DESIGNATED LAUNCH SITE ON THE (SPECIFY AREA) COAST OF THE RSA.’ <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Date of Test</i> DD MMMM YYYY</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Examination Authority</i> NATIONAL SEA RESCUE INSTITUTE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SVC-9000001-S</p> |
|---|--------------|---|

ANNEX 2



PHOTO

Republic of South Africa CERTIFICATE

OF COMPETENCE Certificate Number

SVC-9000001-S

Issued To
NON SUCH PERSON

ID/Passport Number
5559 5559 555

This certificate is issued by the South African Maritime Safety Authority on behalf of the Government of South Africa in terms of the Merchant Shipping Act 1951, (Act No. 57 of 1951, as amended.

Dated at Pretoria DD MMMM YYYY

for CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Type and Category of Vessels Involved

CATEGORY B VESSELS <9M AND ANY NON PASSENGER VESSEL ON INLAND WATERS IN SOUTH AFRICA, DAY OR NIGHT

Level of Competence

‘COASTAL SKIPPER LIMITED TO 40 NAUTICAL MILES FROM SHORE; PROCEEDING TO SEA FROM A COMMERCIAL HARBOUR, FISHING HARBOUR, OR A PROTECTED LAUNCH SITE.’

Additional Endorsement/s

1. **‘COMPETENT TO ACT AS A SKIPPER OF A CLASS (II) RESCUE VESSEL OVER NINE METRES IN LENGTH BUT LESS THAN 25 GT.’**
2. **‘COMPETENT TO LAUNCH THROUGH THE SURF FROM A DESIGNATED LAUNCH SITE ON THE (SPECIFY AREA) COAST OF THE RSA.’**

Date of Test

DD MMMM YYYY

Examination Authority

NATIONAL SEA RESCUE INSTITUTE

SVC-9000001-S

ANNEX 3



PHOTO

Republic of South Africa CERTIFICATE
OF COMPETENCE Certificate Number

SVC-9000001-S

Issued To
NON SUCH PERSON

ID/Passport Number
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Dated at Pretoria DD MMMM YYYY

for *CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER* _____

Type and Category of Vessels Involved
CATEGORY B COMMERCIAL VESSEL < 9M (Under 25 GT) AND ANY NON PASSENGER VESSEL ON INLAND WATERS IN SOUTH AFRICA, DAY OR NIGHT.

Level of Competence
'COASTAL SKIPPER LIMITED TO 40 NAUTICAL MILES FROM SHORE; PROCEEDING TO SEA FROM A COMMERCIAL HARBOUR, FISHING HARBOUR, OR A PROTECTED LAUNCH SITE.'

- Additional Endorsement/s*
1. **'COMPETENT TO ACT AS A SKIPPER OF A CLASS (I) RESCUE VESSEL NINE METRES AND OVER IN LENGTH BUT LESS THAN 25GT.'**
 2. **'COMPETENT TO LAUNCH THROUGH THE SURF FROM A DESIGNATED LAUNCH SITE ON THE (SPECIFY AREA) COAST OF THE RSA.'**

Date of Test
DD MMMM YYYY

Examination Authority
NATIONAL SEA RESCUE INSTITUTE

SVC-9000001-S

ANNEX 4



PHOTO

Republic of South Africa CERTIFICATE OF

COMPETENCE Certificate Number SVC-

9000001-S

Issued To
NON SUCH PERSON

ID/Passport Number
5559 5559 555

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Dated at Pretoria DD MMMM YYYY

for CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Type and Category of Vessels Involved

CATEGORY E VESSELS <9M AND ANY NON PASSENGER VESSEL ON INLAND WATERS IN SOUTH AFRICA, DAY OR NIGHT

Level of Competence

‘DAY SKIPPER OF A POWER DRIVEN VESSEL LIMITED TO 1 NAUTICAL MILE FROM SHORE AND 15 NAUTICAL MILES FROM AN APPROVED LAUNCH SITE; PROCEEDING TO SEA FROM A COMMERCIAL HARBOUR, FISHING HARBOUR, OR A PROTECTED LAUNCH SITE.’

Additional Endorsement/s

1. **‘COMPETENT TO ACT AS A SKIPPER OF A CLASS (IV) RESCUE VESSEL UNDER 9 METRES**
2. **‘COMPETENT TO LAUNCH THROUGH THE SURF FROM A DESIGNATED LAUNCH SITE ON THE (SPECIFY AREA) COAST OF THE RSA.’**

Date of Test
DD MMMM YYYY

Examination Authority
NATIONAL SEA RESCUE INSTITUTE

SVC-9000001-S

ANNEX 5



PHOTO

Republic of South Africa CERTIFICATE OF

COMPETENCE Certificate Number SVC-

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Dated at Pretoria DD MMMM YYYY

for CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Type and Category of Vessels Involved

ANY CATEGORY R VESSEL

Level of Competence

‘SKIPPER OF A POWER DRIVEN VESSEL LIMITED TO OPERATING WITHIN A PORT, FISHING HARBOUR, TIDAL RIVER, LAGOON, ESTUARY AND ALL INLAND WATERS IN SOUTH AFRICA’

Additional Endorsement/s

1. **‘COMPETENT TO ACT AS A SKIPPER OF A CLASS (V) RESCUE VESSEL UNDER 9 METRES.**

Date of Test
DD MMMM YYYY

Examination Authority
NATIONAL SEA RESCUE INSTITUTE

SVC-9000001-S



FAMILIARISATION: PRE-SEA TRAINING, SMALL VESSELS

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

.....

.....

ID NUMBER

HAS SUCCESSFULLY ATTENDED FAMILIARISATION: PRE-
SEA TRAINING INSTRUCTION

**In accordance with the Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety)
Regulations 2007. Regulation 14(3)(a)**

**This training is approved by SAMSA in Marine Circular – Certificates of Competence for
coxswains of NSRI vessels and familiarisation training for NSRI crew.**

AT NSRI STATION

.....

DATE

ASSESSOR.....

STATION COMMANDER.....