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**THE NATIONAL SMALL  
VESSEL SAFETY  
REGULATIONS 2007**

**NATIONAL SMALL VESSEL  
EXAMINATION SYSTEM**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO  
[WWW.SAMSA.ORG.ZA](http://WWW.SAMSA.ORG.ZA) AND READ THE  
*MERCHANT SHIPPING (NATIONAL  
SMALL VESSEL SAFETY) REGULATIONS  
2007* TOGETHER WITH SAMSA'S  
SMALL VESSEL POLICY DOCUMENT ;  
“ MARINE NOTICE 13”**

SAMSA has in place a standardised national level of training and examination for all grades of small vessel certificates of competency. Marine Notice 13 documents the national standard, which also contains the South African Small Vessel Code of Qualifications.

The Code consists of various modules which set out the syllabi and standards for small vessel training, certification and examinations

There are only two ways of obtaining a national certificate of competence;

1. Examination by a SAMSA appointed examiner (whether a SAMSA officer or a SAMSA appointed examiner from an authorised agency); or
2. Training and examination by a SAMSA accredited institution.

Small vessel certificates of competence for vessels 09m may be used on either commercial or pleasure vessels.

Small vessel certification for vessels >9m issued by an authorised agency are valid for pleasure vessels only.

SAMSA is the only examination authority allowed to examine candidates for skipper certification on commercial vessels >9m, however recognition is given to persons already holding a recreational certificate for vessels >9m obtained from an agency.

#### **Skippers certificates available**

- Day Skipper - Local Waters (restricted) 09m or >9m
- Skipper 6 Inland waters (restricted) <9m or >9m

- Skipper - Category R and Day Skipper - Category E 09m or >9m
- Skipper - Category C 09m or >9m
- Day Skipper - Category B 09m or >9m
- Coastal skipper 09m (*Category B Day and Night operation*)
- Coastal skipper >9m
- Skipper offshore 09m or >9m

#### **Endorsements to national certification**

- Dive skipper endorsement
- Passenger Vessel (<25GT) endorsement
- Commercial Night Operation endorsement
- Sailing Endorsement to a national certificate
- Surf Launching Endorsement

Details of the examination system and flowcharts describing the seetime and entry requirements for each qualification are available on the SAMSA website.

#### **Conversion of “old certificates”**

At the moment all existing valid certification is still acceptable, however, with the introduction of new national standards and levels of competency there are going to be skippers wanting to (*or in some cases required to*) convert their old certificates to the new national format.

In the past SAMSA policy was always that the agency responsible for issuing the certificate was

also responsible for upgrading or converting them to the new format and they should still assist wherever possible.

Where conversion is not possible through the original agency skippers should approach their nearest SAMSA office, where we will make every reasonable effort to assist in converting whatever certification is presented.