

PCOC Test Syllabus Revision – Detailed Brief April 2010

The original Boating Safety Course Standard was composed of 149 the knowledge required to operate a motorized pleasure craft in Canada. Between 2005 and 2007 a working group reviewed the defined knowledge requirement and made recommendations to improve the Boating Safety Course Standard. Transport Canada has incorporated these recommendations into a new set of 256 knowledge requirements, broken into 10 domains. The new Boating Safety Course Test and Syllabus (TP14932) reflects a reformatting of the original 149 learning items and does not necessarily reflect a large number of additions. The changes include additions, deletions and reformatting to clarify knowledge requirements. The syllabus includes a description of the additions and deletions as well as identification of the legislation and publication sources from which the required knowledge may be drawn.

The quality of the examination questions used to evaluate candidate knowledge has also been of concern to Transport. To address this issue, the examination process will be changed. Transport has developed a bank of boating safety test questions , derived from the 256 knowledge statements. These questions, or tests based on these questions will be provided for accredited course provider use. It is expected that the number of questions may increase to 50, either at or soon after implementation of the new testing process. The questions have been used in test environments with 3000 participants. The pass rate has dropped in the test groups, probably due to an intended increase in the knowledge required to correctly answer the test questions.

The changes to the program include a process under which providers are required to apply to Transport Canada to renew their accreditation. Provider applications include updated training materials reflecting the changes to the knowledge statements, and a cross reference identifying where in the applicant materials each knowledge statement is addressed. The CYA along with a number of other providers submitted their updated materials to Transport Canada for review in early February, 2010. A number of providers chose not to re-apply, and extensions (until mid May) were granted to some providers that were unable to respond by the initial target date. Transport Canada is currently reviewing the submissions and has not yet provided feedback on applicant materials. We are waiting for response from Transport before providing you further details on our updated materials.

Identification of approved providers and implementation of the new testing process was originally expected to occur in the spring of 2010. Current information provided by Transport indicates that the implementation schedule has been delayed, and indications are that the target date for availability of the tests/test questions will be late August or September.

Following is a list of the knowledge domains covered by the 256 learning statements.

Domain 1: Most Common Causes of On-water Incidents or Fatalities

Domain 2: Important Boating Terminology

Domain 3: Laws and Regulations that Apply to Pleasure Craft

Domain 4: Criminal Offences

Domain 5: Planning and Preparation for Boating Trips

Domain 6: Mandatory Safety Equipment

Domain 7: Sharing the Waterways

Domain 8: Canadian Aids to Navigation System (CANS)

Domain 9: Prevention of Emergency Situations

Domain 10: Responding to Emergencies

A copy of the portions of the new Boating Safety Course Test and Syllabus (TP14932) listing the detail knowledge requirements, identifying the related reference materials and itemizing the changes from the original Boating Safety Course Standard will be made available in the Instructor Resources section of the CYA website within the next 2 weeks. Once comments have been received from Transport Canada, the CYA will also make the addendum prepared to cover the additional materials and the learning statement to materials cross reference available to assist in updating any PCOC presentation materials that may have been developed for use in presenting training.

The individual knowledge areas falling within the domains identified above are included below.

Within domain 6, knowledge objectives for each knowledge requirements are:

- a. The importance of mandatory boating safety equipment;
- b. How to use the required safety equipment properly; and
- c. How to properly maintain the required safety equipment.

Domain Item No.	Knowledge Requirement
1.1	Not wearing Personal Flotation Device (PFD)
1.2	Person overboard
1.3	Capsizing and Collision
1.4	Alcohol and drug-related boat operation
2.1	Bow
2.2	Draft
2.3	Hull
2.4	Pleasure Craft
2.5	Operate
2.6	Personal Flotation Device (PFD)
2.7	Freeboard
2.8	Give-way vessel
2.9	Lifejacket
2.10	Port
2.11	Power Driven Vessel
2.12	Restricted Visibility
2.13	Sailing Vessel
2.14	Strong Wind Warning
2.15	Standard Lifejacket
2.16	Stand-on Vessel
2.17	Starboard
2.18	Stern
2.19	Vessel
2.20	Wake
2.21	Waterline (Design)
3.1	Requirement to carry proof of competency
3.2	Age / Horsepower Restrictions Youth under 12 restrictions Youth between 12-16 restrictions Youth 16 + restrictions
3.3	Speed limits, posted and un-posted (such as shoreline speed zones)
3.5	Noise restrictions
3.6	Types of vessels to be licensed or registered
3.7	License (or copy) to be carried on board when in operation
3.8	Updating ownership information – selling/transfer of ownership
3.9	Proper display of license letters and numbers
3.10	Hull identification requirement and placement
3.11	Capacity plate or label display (safe loading capacity and engine power of the boat permanently attached to vessel)
3.12	Designated enforcement officials who can inspect the pleasure craft
3.13	Minimum required equipment as determined by length of vessel
3.14	Maintenance of safety equipment so that it is in good working order
3.15	Distress equipment
3.16	Requirement for due care and reasonable consideration for other people
3.17	To persons found at sea and in danger of being lost
3.18	When operator is involved in a collision
3.19	Safe speed
3.20	Maintaining a look-out
3.21	Use of sound signals

3.22	Rules of the road
3.23	Recognition of navigation lights
3.24	Display of navigation lights
3.25	Location and character of charted shipping routes; lights, buoys and marks; and navigational hazards
3.26	Prevailing navigational conditions, taking into account such factors as tides, currents, ice and weather patterns
3.27	Requirement to equip vessel with magnetic compass or compass bearing device (applies to certain pleasure craft)
3.28	Prohibition of dumping of oil, oil-wastes, garbage and hazardous chemicals (including toxic cleaning products)
3.29	Discharge of sewage (black water) as an offence in certain areas
3.30	Responsibility to clean up and report incidents
4.1	Operating vessel in dangerous manner
4.2	Consumption of alcohol/drugs while operating a vessel
4.3	Operating vessel while impaired (alcohol/drugs) or in excess of 80mg.
4.4	Towing water-skiers without a watch or after dark (one hour after sunset to sunrise)
4.5	Failure to stop at the scene of an collision
4.6	Failure to comply with demand (demand to stop)
4.7	Sending false distress signals
4.8	Operating an unseaworthy vessel
4.9	Tying up to a buoy
4.10	Unseaworthy vessel
4.11	Operating vessel while disqualified/prohibited
5.1	Mechanical
5.2	Test flotation devices as per manufacturers' instructions
5.3	Confirm sizing of PFDs
5.4	Confirm adequate number of PFDs for passengers on board
5.5	VHF/ROC certificate
5.6	Pleasure Craft Courtesy Check Program
5.7	Ensuring the vessel is in good working order, and serviced as required before each trip
5.8	Ensuring the vessel is properly equipped, with readily accessible required safety equipment, before each trip
5.9	Canadian approved PFDs with labels (correct size and # for all passengers)
5.10	Inflatable PFDs, including pouch types (within guidelines of permissible use)
5.11	Approved standard lifejackets
5.12	Buoyant heaving lines
5.13	Currently approved Lifebuoys
5.14	Re-boarding device, where required (cannot be part of propulsion unit)
5.15	Manual propelling device
5.16	Anchor (line length must meet minimum requirements)
5.17	Bailers/manual water pumps
5.18	Fire extinguishers
5.19	Axe
5.20	Buckets
5.21	Watertight flashlight
5.22	Flares
5.23	Sound signaling device or a sound signaling appliance
5.24	Navigation lights as per standards in <i>Collision Regulations</i>
5.25	Radar reflector

5.26	Compass/compass bearing device
5.27	Marine charts, topographical maps, GPS (if applicable)
5.28	Adequate oil and fuel supply for the planned trip (Fuel rule of thirds – 1/3 reserve, 1/3 trip out, 1/3 trip back)
5.29	Identifying how/who to call for help or assistance in the event of an emergency (e.g., cell, VHF, whistle, distress signals)
5.30	Preparing and filing of (or notifying someone responsible) the sail plan (i.e., trip plan, float plan) for each boating trip
5.31	Closing (deactivating) sail plan at trip completion
5.32	Obtaining the latest update of Homeland Security Requirements if traveling in U.S. waters
5.33	Checking marine charts for local hazards that may impede the operation of a boat
5.34	Checking navigational references for water levels, times of low, slack and high tides and the direction of water flow
5.35	Checking navigational references to identify places to take shelter in event of foul weather
5.36	Checking weather forecasts for dangerous conditions before heading out, using appropriate sources
5.37	Determining acceptable loading on the basis of identifying a boat's maximum load capacity (total weight and number of persons)
5.38	Conducting a pre-departure briefing with passengers to provide safety information and emergency procedures
5.39	Recognizing that wearing of a PFD at all times while boating is the highest safety priority in preventing boating deaths
6.1 (a) 6.2 (b) 6.3 (c)	Flotation devices (importance of always wearing lifejacket, including types: advantages and disadvantages, how to adjust, when to replace, treatment of)
6.4 (a) 6.5 (b) 6.6 (c)	Buoyant heaving lines
6.7 (a) 6.8 (b) 6.9 (c)	Lifebuoys
6.10 (a) 6.11 (b) 6.12 (c)	Re-boarding devices (cannot be part of propulsion unit)
6.13 (a) 6.14 (b) 6.15 (c)	Manual propelling device
6.16 (a) 6.17 (b) 6.18 (c)	Anchor
6.19 (a) 6.20 (b) 6.21 (c)	Bailers/manual water pumps
6.22 (a) 6.23 (b) 6.24 (c)	CO2 Fire extinguishers (appropriate number, appropriate type, approved)
6.25 (a) 6.26 (b) 6.27 (c)	Bilge pumping arrangements
6.28 (a) 6.29 (b) 6.30 (c)	Axe
6.31 (a)	Buckets

6.32 (b) 6.33 (c)	
Domain Item No.	Knowledge Requirement
6.34 (a) 6.35 (b) 6.36 (c)	Marine radio communications and GPS
6.37 (a) 6.38 (b) 6.39 (c)	Flares
6.40 (a) 6.41 (b) 6.42 (c)	Sound-signaling device or sound-signaling appliance
6.43 (a) 6.44 (b) 6.45 (c)	Navigation lights
6.46 (a) 6.47 (b) 6.48(c)	Watertight flashlight (qualifies as navigation lights on non-powered vessels less than 7m)
6.49 (a) 6.50 (b) 6.51 (c)	Radar reflector
6.52 (a) 6.53 (b) 6.54 (c)	Compass and compass bearing device
6.55 (a) 6.56 (b) 6.57 (c)	Nautical charts and topographical maps
7.1	Operating at a safe speed, taking into consideration visibility; wind, water conditions, and currents; boat maneuverability; traffic density, types of vessels in area, and their proximity; proximity of navigational hazards
7.2	Complying with any boating restrictions in effect
7.3	Maintaining a proper lookout to avoid collisions
7.4	Using approved sound signaling devices
7.5	Applying appropriate rules of the road as they apply to the interaction of various vessel types including power, sail, paddle and commercial
7.6	Overtaking vessels
7.7	Altering course
7.8	Crossing other vessels
7.9	Give-way vessels
7.10	Stand-on vessels
7.11	Vessels not under command
7.12	Vessels restricted in their ability to maneuver including fishing vessels, sailboats, paddle craft, canoes, kayaks
7.13	Steering clear of shipping lanes
7.14	Navigating in a narrow channel
7.15	Being prepared to yield to large vessels
7.16	Navigating in groups when possible (small craft)
7.17	Keeping clear of docked ferries, ferries in transit, or vessel in tow
7.18	Never passing between a tug and its tow
7.19	Reduction of engine noise

7.20	Keeping distance from divers below the surface
7.21	Avoiding motor/propeller strikes
7.22	Staying well clear of swimmers, paddle craft, wildlife, properties, etc.
7.23	Controlling the wake
7.24	Respecting the environment
7.25	Avoiding polluting – black water discharge, fuel and oil spills, use of toxic cleaners, clean up bottom coat sanding and scraping, cross-contamination of invasive species
7.26	Sailboats
7.27	Fishing boats
7.28	Rowboat
7.29	Canoe
7.30	Kayak
7.31	Anchored vessels
7.32	Towboats
7.33	Government or police vessels
7.34	Vessels being pushed
7.35	Port side (red)
7.36	Starboard side (green)
7.37	Masthead light (white)
7.38	Stern light (white)
7.39	All-Round (white)
8.1	Upstream direction (red/right/returning)
8.2	Port hand
8.3	Bifurcation
8.4	Starboard hand
8.5	Cautionary
8.6	Anchorage
8.7	Mooring
8.8	Information
8.9	Hazard
8.10	Control
8.11	Keep out
8.12	Diving
8.13	Swimming
8.14	Day beacons
8.15	Junction
8.16	Cardinal (general group identification and purpose)
8.17	Isolated danger buy
9.1	Operator boating experience and skill set for the planned trip
9.2	Recognizing the symptoms and dangers of operator fatigue
9.3	Influence of drugs and alcohol on boat operation
9.4	Boat maneuverability
9.5	Boat capacity
9.6	Steering clear of rapids, currents
9.7	<p>Identifying weather and water condition emergencies (e.g., small craft warnings) and measures to be taken in certain conditions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted visibility • Squall (make note of compass heading) • Thunderstorms • Sudden wind

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid build-up of high wave conditions • Debris from the shoreline after heavy rains, streams, rivers and creeks rise
9.8	Taking shelter
9.9	Ensuring passengers are wearing PFDs
9.10	Loading
9.11	Maintaining weight distribution of passengers and load
9.12	Fuelling
9.13	Engine start-up
9.14	Avoiding and detecting carbon monoxide
9.15	Using fuel-burning appliances
9.16	Ignition protection (as required)
10.1	Grounding
10.2	Collision
10.3	Hull leaks or flooding
10.4	Fire
10.5	Mechanical breakdown
10.6	Capsizing, swamping or sinking
10.7	Person overboard
10.8	Cold immersion survival
10.9	Recognizing distress signals as per Collision Regulations
10.10	Identifying measures to be taken to assist a vessel in distress
10.11	Cold-water shock
10.12	Recognizing symptoms
10.13	Treating
10.14	Hypothermia
10.15	Recognizing symptoms
10.16	Treating
10.17	Carbon-monoxide poisoning
10.18	Recognizing symptoms
10.19	Treating
10.20	Heat stroke, exhaustion, seasickness symptoms
10.21	Recognizing symptoms
10.22	Treating