

BASIC OUTBOARD STANDARD

Course Description

This is one of the entry level courses in the series of Sail Canada courses on powerboat operation. It develops the student's ability to take command of and operate a small powerboat with an outboard engine, by day, in light to moderate conditions. Basic boating skills are developed with a focus on operation of the vessel as skipper, and if applicable, as crew. The theory component of this standard is covered in the PCOC syllabus and is completed by examination for the Pleasure Craft Operator Card.

Terminology used in describing the boat and on water activities is taught and used throughout the course. Practical topics include simple maneuvering skills as well as departure from and return to dock. Required and recommended safety equipment is discussed as is the handling of emergencies that might be encountered while day sailing. The basic rules for avoiding collision with other vessels are explained, and this information is applied during the practical sessions.

The program will be offered in a day cruise format. It is envisioned that the course will be taught in not less than 12 hours, of which at least 6 hours should be devoted to practical sessions on water. For holders of PCOC a challenge of the standard may be accomplished in a minimum of two (2) hours afloat, plus completion of the written examination.

Objective

To be able to operate safely in familiar waters as skipper of a craft up to 6 metres and powered by an outboard engine under 55 kW (75 hp).

Prerequisites

None.

Ashore Knowledge

Ashore knowledge that is required for the Pleasure Craft Operator's Card.

Afloat Skills

Section I: Preliminaries

The candidate must be able to:

1. Demonstrate (on shore) the correct method of putting on a personal flotation device (PFD) while in the water;
2. Demonstrate the correct method of boarding a boat from a dock or a beach and storing equipment brought on board;
3. Demonstrate the correct method for starting an outboard engine while observing proper safety practices;
4. Demonstrate an alternate starting system for an outboard engine.

Section II: Manoeuvring Under Power

The candidate must be able to:

5. Manoeuvre an outboard powered boat from and to a side dock correctly under the following wind and current conditions:
 - a) Wind/current parallel to dock,
 - b) Wind/current away from dock,
 - c) Wind/current towards the dock;
6. Bring the boat to a mooring buoy and successfully retrieve the mooring lines;
7. Manoeuvre a boat under varying sea and wind conditions with the wind from the following points: Ahead, Astern, Abeam, Quarter;
8. Set anchor in water more than 3 meters deep so as not to drag when tested under power of half-throttle astern;
9. Weigh anchor and get boat ready and underway;
10. Demonstrate skipper's actions/commands from the time a member of the crew falls overboard without warning, until the crew is safely recovered. Consider the crew overboard wearing a PFD and able to assist them self. Include the following minimum actions:
 - a) Sound alarm,
 - b) Deploy marker and buoyant object(s),
 - c) Appoint and maintain a lookout;

11. Demonstrate the basic principles of handling a boat under adverse weather conditions such as zigzagging while heading broadside to the waves and while heading into the waves.

Section III: Making Fast and Snugging Down

The candidate must be able to:

12. Secure the boat for a prolonged period of time preventing excessive motion and correctly placing fenders while broadside to a dock, in a slip with pilings and with flexible stern moorings;
13. Demonstrate a landing on a beach and bring the boat ashore;
14. Tie each of the following knots, bends and hitches within 30 seconds:
 - a) Figure eight,
 - b) Reef knot,
 - c) Double sheet bend,
 - d) Bowline,
 - e) Clove hitch,
 - f) Round turn & two half hitches.

Outcomes and Evaluation

Candidates are expected to demonstrate the ability to safely operate the watercraft in daytime in moderate conditions as both skipper and crew. These capabilities will be evaluated as part of the practical sessions. Candidate theory knowledge will be evaluated by completion of the PCOC examination for those that do not already hold this certification.

Additional Notes

This course covers a variety of practical skill and theoretical knowledge. Students who have completed previous training (such as Sail Canada Introduction to Boating) or who have previous boating experience will find that experience beneficial to their experience in this course. Practical sessions are typically offered on small powerboats (up to 6 metres). The course is typically conducted with one or more students and the instructor on board.

Physical Requirements for Candidates

These training sessions will require short periods of moderate upper body exertion, and a moderate level of arm strength. Participants will have the opportunity to experience sun, wind, spray, rain, and temperatures consistent with the time of year they take part in this activity. When underway the vessel may exhibit irregular motion due to wind and waves and temperatures may be cooler than on land. Participants will be expected to learn and demonstrate skills and perform tasks while the vessel is at the dock, at anchor, and when the vessel is underway. Vessels will be underway for varying periods of time (up to 6 hours), during daylight, in light to moderate wind and sea conditions. These sessions are suitable for most fitness levels and will provide a good body core workout.

Resource Material

Sail Canada Basic Powerboating Skills by Donna Neff
PCOC Manual