

CRUISING CATAMARAN ENDORSEMENT

Standard Description

The standard builds skill in the use of a cruising catamaran at the Intermediate Cruising level. The ability to act as skipper or crew in operation of a cruising catamaran sailing vessel will be developed. This endorsement complements skills taught at the Intermediate Cruising level and may be taught on a stand-alone basis to Intermediate Cruising graduates or may be delivered in conjunction with training leading to the Intermediate, Advanced or Offshore certifications.

Practical topics covered include sail selection and use of the jib cars and mainsheet traveler controls to adjust sail shape for efficient propulsion and balance in the conditions encountered. Students will have the opportunity to practice and develop skills manoeuvring the vessel under power for mooring pickup, and accomplishing various anchoring strategies and docking and dock departure techniques and procedures.

This course builds on the skills developed in the Sail Canada Intermediate Cruising Standard. Candidates are expected to be able to competently demonstrate the skills developed in the intermediate level, in addition to those required for this endorsement.

It is envisioned that the program will be taught in a minimum five days in a live-aboard format in conjunction with the Intermediate Standard, or as a stand-alone course over two days. A challenge of the endorsement by one or two students that hold the Intermediate Standard may be accomplished through an eight hour skill evaluation plus a written exam. A challenge of the Intermediate Cruising Standard including the Cruising Catamaran Endorsement may be accomplished in 48 hours.

Objective

To be able to cruise safely as crew or skipper of cruising catamaran of 9 to 15 meters, sloop rigged, with twin engines, in moderate wind and sea conditions by day. The Standard emphasizes on-the-water skills at a level acceptable for bareboat chartering for extended cruises in coastal and inland waters.

Prerequisites

Requirements prior to taking the endorsement:

- Sail Canada Basic Crew or Cruising and Sail Canada Intermediate Crew or Cruising Standards,
- Sail Canada Basic Coastal Navigation Standard or Sail Canada Coastal Navigation Standard,
- ROC(M): VHF with DSC endorsement,
- Pleasure Craft Operator's Card (or equivalent).

Note: This endorsement may be taught in conjunction with the Intermediate Standard.

To maximize the likelihood of successfully completing the Cruising Catamaran Endorsement a student should be able to consistently demonstrate the skills learned in the Basic and Intermediate Cruising Standards and the Sail Canada Basic Coastal Navigation Standard.

Ashore Knowledge

Section I: Terms and Definitions

The candidate must be able to:

1. Identify and describe the following parts of a multihull:

Bridge deck	Bridge Deck Clearance
Bridle	Crossbeam
Dolphin Striker	Daggerboards
Escape Hatch	Fixed keels
Fly bridge	Foils
Nacelle	Seagull Striker
Three point rig (Tripod)	Trampoline
Wing deck	

Section II: Seamanship

The candidate must be able to:

2. Describe the weight carrying characteristics of cruising multihulls and how weight distribution affects safety and performance;
3. Describe the accommodations of a typical multihull and how comfort and safety will differ from a monohull, with particular emphasis on crew safety briefing;
4. Describe considerations for carrying a dinghy on davits on a multihull, including following seas and chafe;
5. Discuss the characteristics of a multihull which determine windage and the effects of windage on course and speed;
6. Discuss how multihull design affects turning radius.

Section III: Safety

The candidate must be able to:

7. Describe the options for retrieval of a Crew Overboard allowing for vessel performance characteristics;
8. State how and where jacklines would attach to the vessel, and how safety harness tethers would attach and be used to ensure crew safety in case of capsizing;
9. Describe the danger of capsizing, how to recognize the danger, how to prevent it, and the actions to take in the event of a capsizing;
10. Describe indications and guidelines for reefing the sails on a cruising catamaran;
11. Detail the impact of catamaran design on vessel stability and vessel behavior where wave height exceeds bridge deck clearance.

Afloat Skills

Section IV: Preliminaries

The candidate must be able to:

1. Check that all systems on boat are in working order: galley, head, electronics, sails, hull, deck hardware etc.

Section V: Underway

The candidate must be able to:

2. Demonstrate the use of twin engines to steer, pivot, and maneuver the boat in close quarters, in forward and reverse;
3. Demonstrate effective communication between helmsperson and crew when docking with particular emphasis on planning and availability of sight lines;
4. Demonstrate landing at a dock with one engine inoperative;
5. Demonstrate the use of one engine while motor sailing;
6. Demonstrate the ability to sail with correct sail trim;
7. Demonstrate the use of sail controls to maintain mainsail twist on all points of sail;
8. Demonstrate the techniques for tacking, including proper steering throughout the maneuver;
9. Demonstrate techniques of downwind sailing and gybing;
10. Demonstrate reducing sail area, and describe the various sail combinations and how they affect balance of a catamaran;
11. Demonstrate Crew Overboard procedures under power and under sail.

Outcomes and Evaluation

Candidates command capability and vessel handling skills will be coached and evaluated throughout the training session. In addition to successful completion of the practical course candidates will be required to complete a closed book written exam that covers theoretical knowledge relevant to this endorsement. In order to complete the endorsement a mark of 70% is required on the examination.

Additional Notes

This endorsement offers candidates the opportunity to develop cruising catamaran daytime passage making, vessel management and sailing skills in a relaxed practical environment.

Physical Requirements for Candidates

These are offered as live aboard training courses. 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 to 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, primarily during daylight hours in light to strong wind and sea conditions. These training sessions will require short periods of moderate upper body exertion, as well as a moderate level of arm strength and core body fitness for handling lines and operating equipment. The successful candidate will show the ability to steer a straight course, respond early and appropriately to hazards, and stay present moment by moment when at the helm.

Resource Material

Sail Canada Intermediate Cruising Student Notes

Sail Canada Multihull Endorsement Student Notes