



**ICOMIA**

**International Council of Marine Industry Associations**

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Mr. L. Azevedo  
Proiate-Actividades Nauticas, Lda  
Rue do Alecrim, 47-4° C  
1200 Lisbon  
Portugal

29 November 1995

Dear Mr. Azevedo

With reference to your fax dated 27 November, it is clear that different requirements for boat driver licences in the various EU Member States is now becoming a real problem.

The European Boating Association are taking the lead on this in our joint dealings with the European Commission. Your EBA representative in Portugal is:

Daniel Leite:  
Federacao Portuguesa de Vela  
Doca de Belem  
1300 Lisbon

Tel: Not known  
Fax: +351 1 3620215

We suggest that you contact Mr. Leite for the latest update. Meantime we are enclosing the information we have on Boat Driver Licence requirements in our member countries.

Sorry we are unable to be of more help at this time.

Yours sincerely

*P. Sedazzari*

P. Sedazzari  
Office Manager

President: B. LAGERKVIST

Secretary General: T. P. T. DONKIN

ICOMIA OBJECTIVES - to promote BOATING as an international recreational activity by establishing the medium for an exchange of information on matters relating to the common interest such as SAFETY, SERVICE, QUALITY and

DRIVERS LICENCES

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EEC IBELGIUMInland Waterways -

From 1st June 1995 compulsory licences for boats >15m or with speeds capable of exceeding 20 kmh. This applies to all Belgian residents. Non-residents need to have equivalent national licence recognised by Belgian Authorities.

Coastal Waters and Open Sea -

Belgian Marine Authorities have advised NAUTIBEL and Yachting Associations of a proposed new law for boat driving licences in coastal waters. This proposal is strongly criticised by NAUTIBEL and the user associations. It is not thought it will come into effect before the 1996 sailing season. If it is introduced there hopefully will be a two year transitional period, but it will be compulsory and the same conditions apply to residents and visitors as for inland waterways.

DENMARK

No compulsory licences.

FINLAND

No compulsory licences.

FRANCEInland Waterways -

Driving licences are based on length and engine power of boat and following calculations must be applied:

$$T = 2,6 P/L^2$$

T = Powering rate, P = Engine Power (Kw),

L = Length (m)

- \* T > 1, navigation - Certificat de capacite "S"
- \* T < 1 and L > 15m - "Certificat de capacite PP"
- \* T < 1 and L < 15m - "Certificat de capacite C"
- \* T < 1, L < 5m and boat without cabin - no licence.

Note. Everybody can rent a boat without licence.

Coastal Waters and Open Sea -

Carte Mer (Sea Card) permits driving any motorboat up to 50 hp from age 16 during daylight up to 5 nautical miles from a shelter.

Permis Mer Cotier (Coastal Sea Licence) permits driving any motorboat from age 16 up to 5 nautical miles from a shelter.

Permis mer Hauturier (Deep Sea Licence) permits driving any motorboat.

Anyone can drive under supervision from someone on board who has held a driving licence for more than 3 years.

No licence required for sailing vessels and motorboats up to 6 hp.

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DRIVERS LICENCES

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- GERMANY Driving licences for all boats more than 3.68 kW in force. Additional requirements have been introduced in certain districts (e.g. Berlin, Bodensee)
- GREECE Driving licences obligatory for all motorboats more than 25 h.p., and for all inflatables more than 10 h.p.
- IRELAND No compulsory licences.
- ITALY Separate or combined driving licences exist for motorboats and sailing boats. These are obligatory at power above 18.4kW or 25hp. There are two different licences for small boats and boats: within 6 miles or with no limit.
- NETHERLANDS Driving licences for all boats of more than 15m and for motorboats capable of more than 20 km/hr are in force.
- PORTUGAL 4 categories of driving licences based on type of boat, engine power and navigation areas (distance offshore etc.) Engine power limit has been increased recently to 175 kW (approx. 235 hp) for lowest grade (over 18 years). Higher grades now have no power limit.
- SPAIN 4 categories of drivers licence based on size of boat, type of navigation, engine power and boat usage group are in force. Provision for changes in 1996.
- SWEDEN All boats longer than 12m and over 4m wide.
- UK Voluntary drivers test only being relaunched.

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**DRIVERS LICENCES**

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**EEA****NORWAY**

No drivers licences required for the time being.

**SWITZERLAND**

Motorboats more than 6kW. Sailboats more than 15m<sup>2</sup> sail area.

**OTHERS****USA**

Some States require training certificates for juveniles.

**CANADA**

Driving licences under consideration.

**ARGENTINE**

Driving licences in force.

**AUSTRALIA**

Categorised driving licences in some states in force.

**NEW ZEALAND**

THIS COUNTRY HAS NOT RESPONDED TO OUR REQUEST

**JAPAN**

Driving licences for all boats fitted with engines, including personal watercraft, in force.

**SOUTH AFRICA**

THIS COUNTRY HAS NOT RESPONDED TO OUR REQUEST

**HUNGARY**

Inland Waters: driving licences for motorboats more than 4kW, and for all sailboats more than 10m<sup>2</sup> sail area in force. Two categories (A and B) based on size for sailboats. Three categories based on power for motorboats.

Coastal Waters: Four categories of driving licences for sail and motorboats.

Driving licences under further consideration.

November 1995

WITH COMPLIMENTS

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Royal Yachting Association  
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West Sussex PO19 1RA, England

In the UK a licence is not required to operate Pleasure Craft