

Inland Waterways Helmsman Certificate (Own Boat Tuition only at present)

This course is designed to give students confidence to helm a vessel safely on Inland Waterways.

- Duration 1 or 2 days
- Taught at RYA Inland Training Centres although Regional Training team can offer own boat tuition.
- Assumed knowledge before course: Nil
- Certificate Issued: RYA Inland waters Helmsman's Certificate

Syllabus

Deckwork

- Common nautical terms
- Handling warps and fenders
- Throwing a heaving line or coiled rope,
- Knots: clove hitch, round turn and two half hitches, bowline,
- Securing to bollards, rings and cleats and mooring stakes,
- Anchor work.

Helmsmanship and Boat Handling

- Loading and weight distribution
- Steering in a river or canal
- Control of speed
- Inter-action and canal effect
- Turning
- Berthing and unberthing alongside and between buoys/piles
- Recovery of man overboard
- Anchoring

Personal Safety

- Identification of risks, including cold shock.
- Use of lifejackets and buoyancy aids.
- Avoidance of personal injury, including crushing of limbs when fending off.
- Special risks to children.

Boat Safety

- Fire Hazards, particularly gas and petrol
- Use of fire extinguishers.
- Watertight integrity
- Refloating after grounding.

Engines

- Engine care. Checks to be carried out before starting and while running.
- Routine periodic checks.

Locks

- General understanding of maintenance of levels.
- Operation of locks.
- Tending lines in locks.

Bridges and Tunnels

- General understanding of operation of bridges and use of tunnels.

Collision Avoidance

- Steering and sailing rules of IRPCS.
- Bye-laws and local regulations, including traffic signals, signs and priorities.
- Awareness of other national and local regulations.
- Publications to be carried..

Care of Environment

- Avoiding damage to boats, banks, flora and fauna.
- Pollution avoidance.

Consideration for other water users.