

COMMERCIAL ENDORSEMENTS

What is a commercial endorsement?

If you take up to 12 paying customers to sea on boats under 24 metres you are required by law to hold a RYA Certificate of Competence with a Commercial Endorsement. The following certificates can be commercially endorsed –

RYA Yachtmaster Ocean, RYA Yachtmaster Offshore, RYA Coastal Skipper, RYA Day Skipper, RYA Powerboat Level 2, RYA Advanced Powerboat Certificate. The endorsement is stamped or printed on the original certificate. The RYA holds a record of all commercial endorsements

Which certificate do I need?

This depends on the area of operation under the Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) Codes of Practice. Commercial vessels under 24 metres are surveyed and certified for different categories of use.

Details of the requirements for the boats and manning can be found in the following; Code of Practice for Small Commercial Sailing Vessels Code of Practice for Small Commercial Motor Vessels Nominated Departure Point Code (Available from the Stationery Office or RYA online shop)

How do I apply for a commercial endorsement?

To endorse any of the above certificates, you will need to send to the RYA:

1. The original certificate
2. A Certificate of Completion of a Basic Sea Survival Course.
3. A Medical Fitness Certificate. (The RYA or MCA can provide a form ML5, which can be completed by any Doctor.)
4. An endorsement fee of £17.00

How long is the endorsement valid?

5 years, after which a new Medical Fitness Examination is required and evidence of active service declared. RYA Instructors and Examiners who are retested practically to revalidate do not have to record their active service

What does a skipper taking more than 12 passengers or / and a vessel greater than 24 metres require?

The Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) administers these qualifications. For yachts over 24 metres, the MCA usually require a RYA Yachtmaster Offshore or RYA Yachtmaster Ocean as an entry qualification to their courses.