

DOI Watercraft-Safety Course Minimum Standards and Instructor Levels

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MOTORBOAT OPERATOR INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION COURSE (MOICC) MINIMUM STANDARDS

Description. The MOICC is for experienced motorboat operators who have a desire to teach. The curriculum includes hands-on practical exercises and classroom instruction. Successful completion of the MOCC or a bureau-approved substitute is a mandatory prerequisite for taking the MOICC.

Objectives. The MOICC objectives are to:

- A. Familiarize attendees with state-of-the-art watercraft safety equipment and other gear, through demonstration and actual use.
- B. Train and qualify personnel to serve as instructors of the MOCC.

Length. The MOICC will include at least 36 instructional hours. Course instructional hours may be increased to address specific bureau operational needs.

Minimum Subject Areas. The following mandatory subject areas will be presented in the MOICC:

- A. DOI/Bureau Watercraft Policies.
- B. Boat Orientation.
- C. Operating Systems, Maintenance, and Inspection.
- D. Required Equipment and Agency Policy Requirements.
- E. Navigation Rules.
- F. Aids to Navigation (ATONS).
- G. Communications and Risk Management.
- H. Survival and Rescue.
- I. Fire Suppression.
- J. Marlinespike.
- K. Trailering.
- L. Boat Handling.
- M. Anchoring and Beaching.
- N. Rendering Assistance and Towing.
- O. Weather
- P. Special Items
- Q. Instructional Techniques

Other.

- A. There must be at least one MOICC-trained instructor present for every three students during on-the-water sessions.

MOTORBOAT OPERATOR INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION LEVELS

Instructor levels are designated to maintain watercraft-safety instructor competence and proficiency, and course quality.

Lead MOICC Instructor. MOICC Instructors have the knowledge, skills, abilities and experience to organize, lead, and administer MOICC courses. Lead Instructors are highly involved in teaching watercraft safety courses, and available to the DOI for conducting the MOICC and MOCC.

Criteria.

- A. Completion of the MOICC demonstrating competence in all areas (knowledge, practical proficiency, and topic presentation).
- B. Taught five (5) or more MOICC/MOCC's. At least one (1) of these courses must have been at the MOICC level.
- C. Demonstrated good teaching and organization skills.
- D. Organized (as Lead Instructor) at least one MOCC or has jointly organized three or more MOCC's.
- E. Participated in teaching at least one (1) MOICC/MOCC in a three-year period.

Responsibilities.

- A. Organize, administer, and coordinate watercraft safety courses.
- B. Review MOCC material posted on the MOCC Instructor SharePoint site annually

Assistant MOICC Instructor. Assistant MOICC Instructors are trained and capable to help teach the MOCC and MOICC. These instructors are contacted by the Lead MOICC Instructor for assistance in teaching.

Criteria.

- A. Completed the MOICC.
- B. Participated in teaching at least one (1) MOICC/MOCC in a five-year period.

Responsibilities.

- A. Review MOCC material posted on the MOCC Instructor SharePoint site annually
- B. Prepared to teach any MOCC component

Lead MOCC Instructor. Lead instructors have a high degree of knowledge, skills, and experience in teaching instructor-level courses. Lead instructors coordinate and conduct MOCCs and assist with MOICCs.

Criteria.

- A. Completion of a MOICC with demonstrated competence in all areas (knowledge, practical proficiency, and topic presentation).
- B. Taught at least one Traditional (not Blended) MOCC as an Assistant Instructor within three years of MOICC Completion.
- C. Participated in teaching at least one (1) MOICC/MOCC in a five-year period.
- D. Demonstrated good teaching and organization skills.

Responsibilities.

- A. Lead MOCCs and assist with MOICCs.
- B. Review MOCC material posted on the MOCC Instructor SharePoint site annually
- C. Prepared to teach any MOCC component.

Assistant MOCC Instructor. Assistant instructors are trained and capable to help teach the MOCC and MOICC. These instructors are contacted by Level 1-2 Instructors for assistance in teaching.

Criteria.

- A. Completed the MOICC.
- B. Participated in teaching at least one (1) Traditional (not Blended) MOCC within three years of MOICC completion.
- C. Participated in teaching at least one (1) MOICC/MOCC in a five-year period.

Responsibilities.

- A. Review MOCC material posted on the MOCC Instructor SharePoint site annually
- B. Prepared to teach any MOCC component.

Inactive Instructor – These instructors have not maintained proficiency by participating in teaching at least one (1) MOCC/MOICC in a five-year period and must work with the Bureau Lead to re-establish instructor qualifications.

OPEN-WATER, RIVER, & AIRBOAT MODULE INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATION (2019)

The DOI WSWG recognizes three specialized motorized training modules (Open-Water, River, and Airboat).

Qualifications to be recognized as a module instructor:

- A. Must be a current MOCC instructor who has taught alongside an experienced module instructor at least once. The candidate instructor must provide some of the instruction to the students and may not simply observe.

OR

- B. MOCC instructors who have historically instructed staff in these specialized subject areas (or exceeding the standards of the specific module) should seek recognition as a module instructor from their respective bureau watercraft lead. Requests for historical recognition should be made by the instructor through their supervisor and documented MOCC instructor level, experience and the courses taught.

MOTORBOAT OPERATOR CERTIFICATION COURSE (MOCC) MINIMUM STANDARDS

Description. The MOCC is for personnel who need to operate watercraft in performance of their duties. The MOCC focuses on specific motorboat handling techniques and knowledge through hands-on practical exercises and instruction, with a minimum amount of classroom time.

Objectives. The MOCC objectives are to:

- A. Provide attendees with basic skills and knowledge needed to operate watercraft.
- B. Familiarize attendees with state-of-the-art watercraft safety equipment and other gear, through demonstration and actual use.
- C. Allow attendees to demonstrate, through written examination and physical demonstration, that they have a basic grasp of motorboat handling techniques and knowledge to operate a motorboat.

Length. The MOCC will include at least 24 instructional hours. Course instructional hours may be increased to address specific operational needs.

Minimum Subject Areas. The following mandatory subject areas will be presented in the MOCC. All training will be conducted in compliance with the MOCC Instructor Manual:

- A. DOI/Bureau Watercraft Policies.
- B. Boat Orientation.
- C. Operating Systems, Maintenance, and Inspection.
- D. Required Equipment and Agency Policy Requirements.
- E. Navigation Rules.
- F. Aids to Navigation (ATONS).
- G. Communications and Risk Management.
- H. Survival and Rescue.
- I. Fire Suppression.
- J. Marlinespike.
- K. Trailering.
- L. Boat Handling.
- M. Anchoring and Beaching.
- N. Rendering Assistance and Towing.
- O. Weather
- P. Special Items
- Q. On-Water Practical Skills Assessment

Other.

- A. There must be at least one MOICC-trained instructor present for every three students during on-the-water sessions.
- B. If using the MOCC Blended course option, instructors must begin the practical training portion within 90 days of the student's completion of the blended module in DOI Talent.

MOCC REFRESHER TRAINING MINIMUM STANDARDS

MOCC Refresher training is required every five years and consists of an educational component and a practical component:

A. Educational component

- 1) Take and successfully pass the DOI-Talent MOCC Refresher course online or in a classroom setting taught by an MOCC Instructor. (A bureau Watercraft Safety Coordinator may approve a NASBLA or state-certified internet course. If these trainings are used to meet the refresher requirement additional DOI/Bureau policy training must be provided).
- 2) Successfully completing the MOCC or MOICC.
- 3) Teaching at least one MOCC or MOICC.

D. Practical proficiency component:

- 1) Successful completion of a hands-on demonstration of boating exercises in the presence of an MOCC instructor. This method should be selected if the individual operates motorboats occasionally as a normal part of his/her duties.
- 2) Supervisor verification of safe motorboat operation since completing the initial MOCC or most recent refresher. This method should be selected if the individual operates motorboats regularly as a part of his/her job. Additional directions regarding verification and documentation are included when taking the MOCC Refresher course in DOI Talent.
- 3) Retake the MOCC. This method should be selected if the individual has not operated motorboats on a regular basis as a normal part of his/her job and needs to remain certified
- 4) Successfully complete the Airboat, River, or Open Water Module.
- 5) Successfully complete the MOICC.
- 6) Teach at least one MOCC or MOICC.

RIVER MODULE (RM) MINIMUM STANDARDS

Description. The RM is an introductory course on the use of watercraft in moving water. The RM covers motorized watercraft. Completion of the MOCC is a prerequisite for the motorized RM. Since moving water conditions vary widely, RMs are tailored to the conditions in which the course is conducted.

Objectives. The RM objectives are for attendees to:

- A. Understand moving water and how it affects watercraft.
- B. Gain familiarity with watercraft designed for use in moving water, their applications, and maintenance requirements.
- C. Determine if a section of moving water is safe to run.
- D. Understand safety factors to consider when operating watercraft in moving water.
- E. Avoid problems encountered on moving water, and practice how to deal with them if not avoided.
- F. Perform maneuvers in watercraft on moving water.

Length. The RM is a minimum of 8 hours, split into lecture and on-the-water sessions. Course duration is increased when the moving water on which the course is conducted, or the type of watercraft being used, is complex.

Minimum Subject Areas.

- A. River Channel Characteristics.
- B. River Features and Hazards.
- C. River Classifications.
- D. Trip Planning.
- E. Assessing Risk.
- F. Boat-Handling Concepts.
- G. Rules for Running and Reading Rivers.
- H. Environmental Factors.
- I. River Boats and their Maintenance.
- J. Communication and Situational Awareness.
- K. Safety and Emergency Procedures.
- L. Underway skills.

Other.

- A. There must be at least one RM qualified instructor present for every three students during on-the-water sessions.

OPEN-WATER MODULE (OWM) MINIMUM STANDARDS (2019)

Description. The OWM is for watercraft operators boating in large open bodies of water (e.g., operating in coastal waters, or large lakes). Completion of the MOCC is a prerequisite for this course. The OWM continues the progression of information and practical experience gained from the MOCC, and on the job, into an open-water environment where additional knowledge and skills are required to safely operate motorboats in the event of adverse weather and rough water, sight of land may be obscured or lost, and assistance, if required, may be significantly delayed.

Objectives. The OWM objectives are for attendees to:

- A. Perform alongside maneuvering
- B. Tow in-line and alongside
- C. Demonstrate basic nautical navigation principles.
- D. Operate a boat in open water.
- E. Demonstrate navigation skills utilizing GPS devices and charts.

Length. The OWM is a minimum of 16 hours, split into lecture and on-the-water sessions. Course duration is increased when the environment on which the course is conducted, or the type of watercraft being used, is complex.

Minimum Subject Areas.

- A. Assessing Risk.
- B. Mission Planning.
- C. Standard equipment for open water operations
- D. Weather Signs & Signals.
- E. Principles and techniques to safely operate a boat in heavy weather.
- F. How to recognize and avoid surf zones
- G. GPS Overview & Skills Exercises.
- H. Nautical Chart Plotting.
- I. Communication and Situational Awareness.
- J. Safety and Emergency Procedures.
- K. Underway Skills.
- L. Familiarize students with ocean conditions.
- M. Tow a vessel in-line and alongside.

Other.

- A. There must be at least one OWM- qualified instructor present for every three students during on-the-water sessions.

AIRBOAT MODULE (ABM) MINIMUM STANDARDS

Description. The ABM is an entry-level course on airboat operation. Completion of the MOCC is a prerequisite for the ABM. In addition, ABM instructors can add a prerequisite of at least 20 hours of airboat operation time under the on-board supervision of an airboat operator who has at least 40 hours of airboat operation time and a thorough knowledge of the airboat(s) being operated and area(s) of operation. At least 40 hours of on-board-supervised airboat operating time (supervisor specifications same as above) is required before DOI personnel are allowed to operate an airboat independently.

Objectives. The ABM objectives are for attendees to:

- A. Understand the operating principles of an airboat.
- B. Understand the control panel and purpose of each gauge.
- C. Identify and describe each part of an airboat.
- D. Perform a pre-trip safety inspection.
- E. Demonstrate how to start, stop, and turn in both shallow and deep water.
- F. Operate an airboat at minimum and optimal cruising speeds.
- G. Demonstrate docking, beaching, and loading/unloading an airboat.

Length. The ABM is a minimum of 8 hours, split into lecture and on-the-water sessions. Course duration is increased if merited by student inexperience, the complexity in the environment on which the course is conducted, or the complexity of the airboat(s) being used.

Minimum Subject Areas.

- A. Assessing Risk.
- B. Airboat Features.
- C. Operating Instructions.
- D. General Maintenance.
- E. Pre-Flight Safety Inspection.
- F. Collision Avoidance.
- G. Shallow and Deep Environments.
- H. Launching, Retrieving, Loading.
- I. Problem solving.
- J. Underway Skills.

Other.

- A. There must be at least one ABM qualified instructor present for every two students during on-the-water sessions.

AIRBOAT MODULE (ABM) REFRESHER MINIMUM STANDARDS (Approved April 28, 2020)

Description. The MOCC Airboat Module (ABM) Refresher Certification is required every 5 years and consists of educational and practical proficiency components. All operators of DOI Watercraft must also maintain their MOCC Certification by completing refresher requirements every 5 years. MOCC Refresher recertification is separate from the Airboat Module refresher requirement.

Options.

- A. Personnel can complete the educational component in one of the following ways:
 - (1) Successfully taking the FWS-SAF4A02R MOCC Airboat Module (ABM) Refresher Online Course provided by the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) through DOI TALENT.
 - (2) Retaking and successfully passing the FWS-SAF4A02 MOCC Airboat Module (ABM)
 - (3) Teach at least one FWS-SAF4A02 MOCC Airboat Module (ABM) training.
- A. Personnel can complete the practical proficiency component in one of the following ways:
 - (1) Has demonstrated practical Airboat operation proficiency skills to a certified DOI Airboat Module (ABM) instructor. This method should be selected if the employee operates Airboats occasionally (Less than 20 Hours annually) as part of their duties.
 - (2) Has demonstrated significant proven and safe operation of airboats through their normal duties in this office. This method may be selected if the individual operates airboats regularly as a routine part of their duties.
 - (3) Retaking and successfully passing the FWS-SAF4A02 MOCC Airboat Module (ABM).
 - (4) Teach at least one FWS-SAF4A02 MOCC Airboat Module (ABM) training.

Objectives. The ABM Refresher (Educational and Practical) objectives are for attendees to:

- A. Understand the operating principles of an airboat.
- B. Understand the control panel and purpose of each gauge.
- C. Identify and describe each part of an airboat.
- D. Perform a pre-trip safety inspection.
- E. Demonstrate how to start, stop, and turn in both shallow and deep water.
- F. Operate an airboat at minimum and optimal cruising speeds.
- G. Demonstrate docking, beaching, and loading/unloading an airboat.

Length. The ABM Refresher Online course is a minimum of 2 hours. Practical Proficiency certification will vary based on student experience, the complexity in the environment on which the course is conducted, or the complexity of the airboat(s) being used.

NON-MOTORIZED MODULE (NMM) MINIMUM STANDARDS

Description. The NMM minimum standards are for introductory courses on the safe operation of non-motorized watercraft. Since water conditions and boat-types vary widely, NMM's will provide operators with practical safety training pertinent to the watercraft and environmental conditions in which the watercraft will be operated. Completion of the MOCC is not a prerequisite for the NMM.

Objectives. The NMM objectives are for attendees to:

- A. Describe water dynamics and how it affects non-motorized watercraft.
- B. Describe non-motorized watercraft, their applications, transport and maintenance requirements.
- C. Discuss and describe the safety and risk management elements to consider when operating non-motorized watercraft.
- D. Demonstrate the proper use of safety equipment and other accessories.
- E. Describe problems encountered on the water and demonstrate maneuvers if caught in a problematic situation.
- F. Perform maneuvers & emergency procedures in non-motorized watercraft.

Length. The NMM is a minimum of 4 hours, split into lecture and on-the-water sessions. Course duration should be increased when the difficulty level increases due to environmental factors or the type of watercraft being used becomes more complex.

Additional training courses (e.g., swift water rescue, open water coastal kayaking, etc) may also be deemed as necessary by the bureau.

Minimum Subject Areas.

- A. Scope and Limitations of Training
- B. Water Characteristics, Features & Hazards
- C. Trip Planning
- D. Assessing Risk, Communication & Situational Awareness
- E. Boat-Handling Concepts
- F. Environmental Factors
- G. Non-motorized Boat Rigging and Maintenance
- H. Safety Equipment
- I. Emergency Procedures
- J. Victim and Self Rescue
- K. Boat Handling Skills
- L. Watercraft Transport

Other.

- A. Student/Instructor Ratio: Maximum of 6 students per instructor
- B. Instructor Qualifications: Demonstrated experience, or training, consistent to current industry-level (e.g., ACA, NASBLA, USCG) instructor training.