

NATIONAL SKIPPER'S TICKET OF COMPETENCY FOR LOCAL WATERS (15NM)

At the outset, in order to put the fears of many people who currently hold the old SADSAA National Skipper's Tickets to rest, these tickets are still legal and valid and there is no necessity for anyone to obtain the National ticket issued by SAMSA (formerly DOT).

The current procedure for any candidate requiring a SAMSA Certificate of Competency is as follows:

THEORETICAL SECTION

1. Courses and examinations are held approximately every two months at Shelly Beach Ski-Boat Club. They are also held at Durban, Newcastle/Vyrheid and in other areas around the country when there is sufficient demand.
2. Bookings for the theoretical course and examination can only be made through our office and candidates must supply the following:
 - i. Prescribed fee
 - ii. 4 ID colour photographs
 - iii. Copy of ID
 - iv. Eyesight certified as specified by SAMSA
 - v. Medical certificate as specified by SAMSA

The current fee is R1800.00 which includes the Skippers Guide, lectures, exam and application fee for the ticket. These fees are subject to change from time to time.

3. On receipt of a booking with all the requirements, the candidate will be given a Skipper's Guide Study Manual which must be studied prior to attending the course.
4. The candidate must attend all the lectures prior to writing a two hour exam paper. The questions on the paper are in English and Afrikaans and are divided into eight different categories, ranging through general seamanship, first aid, radio, collision rules, lights, navigation and chartwork. At this stage there are courses for up to 15 nautical miles, as well as internal waters and offshore to 1 nm. The 15nm course has to be completed before applicants can do a more advanced course of 40nm.
5. Once the written section has been successfully completed the candidate may then undergo a practical test once he/she had had the required minimum experience.

PRACTICAL SECTION

Tickets are issued in various categories according to the category of craft and whether the experience and examination has been undertaken from a surf or sheltered area.

1. Category of Craft. The launches and/or hours at sea must be done on the category of craft for which the ticket is required. Subsequently, the practical test should also be undertaken on the same craft. The categories of craft are B (40nm) night rated, C (15nm), D (5nm), E (1nm) and R (internal waters such as harbours, estuaries and dams).
2. Sheltered Launch. This will qualify the skipper to launch from a sheltered area only. In Natal the two sheltered areas are at the Vetch's Pier (Durban Ski Boat Club) and Richard's Bay Harbour. All other recognised skiboat launch sites in Natal are regarded as surf launch areas.
3. For a daylight hours sheltered launch the candidate must complete a minimum of 50 hours at sea under the guidance of a qualified skipper during the hours of daylight.

These hours must be recorded on the prescribed form and produced to the examiner prior to undertaking a practical test.

4. Surf Launch. This will qualify the skipper to launch from any recognised skiboat launch site on the South African coast.
5. For daylight hours surf launch ticket, the candidate must complete, at the wheel of the boat, a minimum of 12 launches covering at least 24 hours at sea during daylight hours. Launches must be on the Eastern Seaboard of the South African coast, i.e. between Kosi Bay and Mossel Bay. Launches from the Mozambique coast are not acceptable. These launches must be recorded on the prescribed log sheet and produced to the examiner prior to a practical test.

The aspiring skipper must decide what type of launch he requires and the category of craft he will be using and once he has completed the required number of launches and hours at sea as set out above, he should contact the club at the launch site selected and make an appointment with the Authorised Agent on duty to carry out a practical test.

Once both the theory and practical sections have been successfully completed, the office will then process all the documents, which will be forwarded to SADSAA for the eventual issue of the ticket, which can take several months. An interim certificate will be issued in the meantime so that the skipper can launch whilst waiting for his ticket.

Candidates are requested to complete the practical section within 6 months of writing the theory examination, but an extension of a further 6 months may be given on a written request. After a lapse of one year, regardless of the reason, the theoretical examination becomes null and void and would have to be re-written if the candidate still wishes to obtain a Skipper's Ticket.

For practical bookings please contact Candice cdouglas@vodamail.co.za