

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is a Pleasure Craft Operator Card?**

A Pleasure Craft Operator Card is the card introduced by the Canadian Coast Guard/Transport Canada in Sept 1999. This card is used as “proof of competency” for all recreational boaters in the basics of boating regulations, safety and rescue procedures.

### **When am I required to have a Pleasure Craft Operator Card by?**

Depending on your age and length of boat you operate the dates will vary. Any one born after April 1, 1983 is required to possess their card now regardless of the length of craft they operate. Any one operating a boat under 4 metres (13 feet) in length is required to possess their card by Sept 15, 2002. Everyone, regardless of age is required to possess their card by **Sept 15, 2009**.

### **Can my kids operate a boat by themselves?**

Children under the age of 12 are not permitted to operate boats above 10 hp unless accompanied by a person 16 years of age or older. Youth over 12 but under 16 years of age will not be permitted to operate boats above 40 hp unless accompanied by an individual 16 years of age or older. 16 years of age is the minimum for operating a personal watercraft (e.g., Sea-Doos or Jet Skis).

### **What is on the exam?**

The exam is a 36 question, multiple-choice exam. Questions are drawn from all areas of the B.O.A.T. Study Guide and general to all Canadian waterways. In keeping with the Canadian Coast Guard standards, the Lifesaving Society's B.O.A.T. course will ensure that successful program participants will be aware of acts, regulations, and code; be able to respond to emergencies; act responsibly in the operation of a pleasure craft; and operate a pleasure craft safely.

### **What options for taking my exam do I have?**

The best option for most individuals is to take a B.O.A.T. Course. The B.O.A.T. Course is led by a certified BOAT Instructor that will assist you in learning the BOAT information. This option also allows individuals to have any questions they might have answered. The second option would be to challenge the exam. Challenging the exam is an option for individuals who believe that they have sufficient boating knowledge to pass the exam. However, we still recommend studying the information in the BOAT Study Guide before writing the exam.

### **Do I have to carry my card with me all the time?**

Yes, you will be required to carry your Pleasure Craft Operator Card with you on the water. This is similar to carrying your driver's license with you when you drive.

### **Once I receive my Pleasure Craft Operator Card do I have to renew or recertify it?**

No, the Pleasure Craft Operator Card is a lifetime certification that does not require you to renew or recertify it.

### **What is the minimum age allowed to take the B.O.A.T. Course or exam?**

The B.O.A.T. Course and exam is designed for individuals at least 8 years old.

### **Can I write the exam at home?**

No, the exam must be written in a proctored situation. This means that a Lifesaving Society B.O.A.T. Instructor or Examiner must be present when the exam is being written.

### **What mark do I need to pass the exam?**

To pass the exam a mark of 75% (27 out of 36 questions) is required.

### **Where can I take the exam?**

Challenge exams locations are available around the province. For specific locations please call the Lifesaving Society office.

### **If I fail the exam can I try it again?**

Course providers shall not allow a person to challenge more than one exam within the same day. The second exam the next day must be a different test from the first one. After a person has challenged two exams and does not attain a pass mark, course providers shall encourage the person to take the B.O.A.T. Course.

### **Who can become a B.O.A.T. Instructor?**

The prerequisite for becoming a B.O.A.T. Instructor is a Pleasure Craft Operator Card (preferably the B.O.A.T. award) and a current Lifesaving Instructor. Individuals who do not hold a current Lifesaving Instructor award can apply to the Lifesaving Society for exemption status.

### **What kind of background is required to be approved for an exemption on my Lifesaving Instructor award?**

Individuals seeking an exemption on the Lifesaving Instructor award to become a B.O.A.T. Instructor must complete an exemption form and return it to the Lifesaving Society office. To receive an exemption an individual must have previous training and experience in educational programming. Examples include hunter/gun safety training instructor, snowmobile safety instructor, elementary/high school teacher.

### **How do I become a licensed Test and/or Training Centre?**

Affiliates or individuals wishing to deliver the B.O.A.T. program in Saskatchewan must complete a licensing agreement with the Lifesaving Society Saskatchewan Branch.