

Boat Operators (Hire Vessels) Licence Information & Conditions

1. Boat Operators Licences are required by all proprietors and/or their staff for taking charge or assisting in the charge of vessels to be let for hire to be used for carrying passengers and for hiring vessels on waters in the Council's area. Upon receipt of a completed License application form the Council's Lake Wardens will arrange a date and time for a practical competency test to be carried out, if the test is passed successfully, they will then issue the licence.
2. The Council issue two types of License, namely:-
 - i) Full Licence – issued for the purpose of taking charge or assisting in the charge and navigation of vessels to be let for hire and/or to be used for carrying passengers.
 - ii) Restricted Licence – issued to persons assisting in the charge of vessels to be let for hire. This type of License does not cover the navigation of vessels to be used for carrying passengers for hire and is intended for those persons hiring the vessels from the shore or a pier only.
3. In order to qualify for a full License an applicant must:-
 - i) Be 18 years of age or over – Please see Condition 8 relating to applicants aged 65 or over.
 - ii) Be capable of reading a vehicle number plate in good daylight (with glasses, if worn) at 23m (75 feet) for figures 9cm (3 1/2") high or at 20m (67 feet) for figures 8cm (3 1/8") high;
 - iii) Pass or have previously passed a practical test of seamanship and local pilotage in respect of the water or waters for which the License is required;
 - iv) Have a full knowledge of the Hire Licence Conditions pertaining to the vessel/s being hired.
 - v) Have a full knowledge of all statutory rules, regulations and bye-laws applicable to navigation on the water or waters for which the License is required.
 - vi) Not suffer from any disease or disability which could affect their fitness to assist the charge or navigation of pleasure vessels let for hire or used for carrying passengers for hire.
4. In order to qualify for a restricted Licence, an applicant must:-
 - i) Be 18 years of age or over – Please see Condition 8 relating to applicants aged 65 or over.
 - ii) Have full knowledge of the Hire Licence Conditions pertaining to the vessel/s being hired.
 - iii) Have full knowledge of all statutory rules, regulations and bye-laws applicable to navigation on the water or waters for which the License is required;
 - iv) Not suffer from any disease or disability which could affect their fitness to assist in the charge of vessels let for hire.
5. Applicants are asked to complete a declaration as to their fitness to be issued with a License. If you are without hand or foot, or have any defect in limb movement or power, or if you have ever had epilepsy or sudden attacks of disabling giddiness or fainting or any mental illness or defect or any other disability, you should make further enquiry as to your fitness to be issued with a License before completing the application form.

6. It is necessary to give proof of your date of birth and you should forward a copy of such with the completed application form.
7. All persons Licensed will be required at all times when on duty to wear on their outer clothing a Licence identity badge which will be issued to successful applicants with their Licence Document.
8. Applicants aged 65 years or over must submit a certificate, signed by a registered medical practitioner, to the effect that they are physically fit to undertake the duties required of them. The renewal of the Licence will be on an annual basis only, and the Council may require the applicant to undergo an additional medical examination by a registered medical practitioner selected by the Council.
9. Boat Hiring
 - i) The Boat Operator shall display their relevant licences and boat schedules at or near the point of hire or launch point of their vessels so as to be visible to the public.
 - ii) The Full and Restricted Boat Operator Licences are valid for one year from 1st May to 30th April, are non-transferable and cannot be backdated. Any licence issued after 1st May in any year will be issued from the remainder of that year to 30th April and the fee will be charged on a pro rata basis for the proportion of the year to 30th April remaining.
 - iii) The Boat Operator shall notify the Council within seven days of any change of address, operating changes or alternative of any vessel from that tested.
10. Insurance
 - i) The Boat Operator shall have in force a policy of insurance to cover public liability and associated risks with a reputable insurance company.
11. Boat Testing
 - i) The Boat Operator shall be responsible for arranging to have all pleasure boats or vessels to be used for public hire and their safety boat tested annually by the Council's appointed approved boat inspector. The Boat Operator shall not hire any vessels that is not passed by the Council's Boat inspector or does not conform to the licence conditions. The Boat Operator shall maintain all vessels in a serviceable and safe condition to the satisfaction of the boat inspector during the term of the licence.
12. Operating Schedule
 - i) The Boat Operator shall have in place at the point of hire/launch a board or record of hire of vessels to include:
 - a. Date and time hired/date and time returned
 - b. Boat name or number
 - c. Number of persons hire

13. Liability

- i) The Council may suspend or revoke a licence at any time whenever they deem such suspension or revocation to be necessary in the interest of public safety.