RYA Tender Operator Course

Aim: To teach tender driving up to the required standard to carry passengers and other crew members to and from the mother ship by day and night.

Pre-course knowledge: Candidates must hold a RYA Powerboat Level 2 with coastal endorsement. It is strongly recommended that candidates hold a valid first aid certificate and a VHF/SRC operator's license or equivalent.

Duration: Two days

Minimum age: Seventeen years old

Section A: Practical

Preparation for Sea
Can:
> Prepare the vessel including;
> Navigation equipment
> Bilge pump and alarms
> Essential safety equipment
> Stowage of warps and securing gear

Pre-departure procedures
Understands:
> Drive systems
> Emergency shutdown procedures for the vessel being used for training
> The need to be familiar with procedures for re-fuelling onboard and at sea
> Communication protocol with mother ship

Can:
> Carry out fuel and mechanical checks on the vessel being used for training including:
> Engines, cooling and lubrication systems
> Safely start and shutdown engines
> Diagnose basic engine start problems
> Fuel levels

Life Saving Apparatus (LSA)
Knowledge of:
> Sources of information on different types of LSA

Understands:
> The importance of familiarisation with the use of different types of LSA

Can:
> Demonstrate the use of all LSA carried onboard

Boat handling
Understands:
> The importance of having crew to assist in berthing operations
> The importance of boat control in waves and adequate seating to minimize the possibility of injury
> How to select an anchorage with due regard to the safety of the vessel and passengers who may be partaking in water sports

Towing water toys and the need for a spotter
Tidal considerations

Can:

Demonstrate the correct use of the kill cord at all times when underway
Demonstrate berthing and docking skills in the following situations:
beam to; bow to and stern to carried out with a crew member and
shorthanded
Helm considerately at planing speed
Recover MOB by day and night
Anchor the vessel safely

Rules of the Road
Knowledge of:
Sources of local byelaws
Understands:
The importance of adhering to local byelaws
Can:

Apply the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea
(IRPCS)
Demonstrate a good sense of situational awareness including;
the ability to conduct dynamic risk assessment given the prevailing
conditions and location

Passenger safety and comfort
Knowledge of:
Sources of information regarding maximum number of people and payload
Understands:
When to instruct passengers to wear appropriate LSA
The importance of boat control in waves and appropriate seating to minimise
the possibility of injury or ejection
Requirement to comply with maximum number of people and payload
The hazards associated with non-compliant passengers and those under the
influence of alcohol
The hazards associated with less mobile passengers and children
Strategies for ensuring the safety of non-English speaking passengers
The importance of selecting a safe place to meet and greet passengers
The need to pre-plan onward land transportation of passengers
Can:

Brief the crew on passage plan and roles and responsibilities
Give an effective passenger safety briefing
Give an effective demonstration of all relevant LSA and location
Embark and disembark passengers safely
Drive appropriate to prevailing weather and sea conditions, with due
consideration to keeping all onboard comfortable and dry

Daytime pilotage
Understands:
The benefit of agreeing and lodging the pilotage plan with the Master or
Officer of the Watch
The requirement for a safety margin when using chartplotters and other
electronic navigation aids

The need to use a secondary means of position fixing when using electronic navigation aids including the use of verifiable waypoints
Consideration for local environmental conditions, hazards and other water users
The importance of maintaining contact with the mother vessel at all times
Safe speed for navigation

Can:

Produce an effective day time pilotage plan
Use charts and publications
Interpret Lateral and Cardinal buoyage System A & B
Use a chartplotter for navigation afloat
Use waypoint navigation
Use pilotage to enter a port by day

Night time pilotage

Understands:

The additional hazards associated with moving passengers by water during the hours of darkness

Can:

Take charge of a power driven vessel during the hours of darkness, including but not limited to, short passages between harbour and mother vessel
Produce an effective night-time pilotage plan
Demonstrate ability to keep a proper look-out by all available means
Identify position at all times

Emergency situations

Knowledge of:

Helicopter rescue procedures
Local safe havens/points of refuge

Understands:

Effective management of an emergency situation by day and at night
Importance of keeping an up-to-date head count of all persons on board
Fire prevention and fighting
Action to take in the event of hull damage / loss of watertight integrity
What to do in a medical emergency
The principles of towing and being towed
The danger of cold shock

Can:

Simulate a distress alert by all available means

Section B: Theory

Types of Tender
Knowledge of:
> Different types of tender
> Different types of propulsion systems: outdrive, outboard, jet drive, forward-facing drives, shaft drive

Understands:
> The handling characteristics for various types of common hull forms

Launch and Recovery
Knowledge of:
> Various methods of launch and recovery from the mother vessel whilst at anchor and stopped in the water

Understands:
> Requirement to gain onboard type specific training

Legislation and guidance
Knowledge of:
> The requirement to maintain a current MCA Officer of the Watch Training Record Book (Yacht)
> RYA Code of Practice for Safe Water Sports Operations
> RYA Guidance on Small High-Speed Craft Passenger Safety

Understands:
> The importance of carrying the correct documents

Vessel Specific Training
Knowledge of:
> Additional regulated training available

Understands:
> The importance of vessel and equipment specific training