
**RESOLUTION NO. 31 “MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF
BOATMASTER’S LICENSES IN INLAND NAVIGATION WITH A VIEW TO THEIR
RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC”**Local knowledge requirements existing in the UNECE RegionNote by the secretariat**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. It is recalled that Resolution No. 258 of the Inland Transport Committee with the Plan of action for the implementation of the decisions taken by the pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport requests the Working Party on Inland Water Transport and its relevant subsidiary bodies to cooperate with River Commissions in order to rationalize and unify as much as possible the requirements on checking the knowledge by boatmasters of specific stretches of inland waterways and their navigating skills on those stretches (ECE/TRANS/192, Annex II, item 2).

2. At the meeting of the UNECE volunteer experts on the mutual recognition of the boatmaster’s licences on 18 September 2008, experts recognized that it could be useful to collect the information on the local knowledge requirements in the UNECE countries (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2009/7, para.19). Bearing this in mind, the secretariat in consultation with River Commissions, prepared a draft table which could be used to collect information on the local knowledge requirements existing in the UNECE region.

3. At its thirty-fourth session, the Working Party approved the draft questionnaire and requested the secretariat to circulate it to member States and River Commissions and present the preliminary results of this survey to the next session of SC.3/WP.3 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/68, paras. 26-27). The Working Party may wish to consider the preliminary information compiled by the secretariat, based on the replies received from the member-States and River Commissions and on the relevant international studies.¹ The Working Party may wish to instruct the secretariat on the modalities of presenting this information at the fifty-third session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport.

¹ European Commission, DG TREN, Final Report of the Impact Assessment and Evaluation study on a “Proposal for a legal instrument on the harmonization of boatmaster’s certificates in inland waterway transport” (2009). (Hereafter, DG TREN, Report on harmonization of boatmaster’s certificates.)

II. LOCAL KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS EXISTING IN THE UNECE REGION

Country	Name and number of E-waterway ²	Sector of the waterway	Reasons for requiring local conditions knowledge ³	Local knowledge (LN) requirements	
				Professional experience (number of runs)	Modalities of examination on local conditions ⁴
Austria ⁵	Danube (E80)	Three free flowing sectors of Danube: (a) Km 2094,5 (Wallsee) - km 2060,4 (Persenbeug) (b) Km 2032.8 (Melk) - km 1979,8 (Altenwörth) (c) Km 1921 (Wien-Freudenau) - the Austrian-Slovak border		At least, 8 upstream and 8 downstream trips	
Belarus	N/A				
Belgium ⁶	No				
Bulgaria ⁷	No				
Croatia	N/A				
Czech Republic ⁸	No				

² As referenced in the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN)

³ Reasons may include: a) free current; b) narrow fairway; c) sand banks; d) variable hydraulicity; e) strong streams; f) modifications of the river bed; g) cliffs; h) fords; i) other.

⁴ Modalities of the examination include: a) oral or written; b) practice or use of simulators; c) modalities of the choice of the sector.

⁵ DG TREN Report on harmonization of boatmaster's certificates, p. 10.

⁶ DG TREN Report on harmonization of boatmaster's certificates, p. 11.

⁷ DG TREN Report on harmonization of boatmaster's certificates, p. 11.

Country	Name and number of E-waterway ²	Sector of the waterway	Reasons for requiring local conditions knowledge ³	Local knowledge (LN) requirements	
				Professional experience (number of runs)	Modalities of examination on local conditions ⁴
Finland ⁹	No				
France ¹⁰	Rhine (E 10)	Iffezheim - Lauterbourg			
Germany ¹¹	Rhine (E10)	Km 335,92 (Iffezheim) to km 857,4 (Spyck'sche Ferry)	Difficult nautical conditions Safety of shipping	16 (8 in each direction of the waterway). For further details see Chapter 2 of Rhine Patent Regulations	Oral
	Elbe (E20)	Km 0,0 (Schöna) - km 607,50 (Limits of the Port of Hamburg)	Difficult nautical conditions Safety of shipping	16. For further details see <i>BinSchPatentV</i> , paragraph 12, subparagraphs 1-3.	Oral
	Weser (E14)	Km 0,0 (Hann.-Münden) (km 0,0) - km 204,45 (Minden)	Difficult nautical conditions Safety of shipping	16. For further details see <i>BinSchPatentV</i> , paragraph 12, subparagraphs 1-3	Oral
	Danube (E80)	Km 2.249,00 (Liegestelle Vilshofen) to km 2.322,02 (Straubing)	Difficult nautical conditions Safety of shipping	16. For further details see <i>BinSchPatentV</i> , paragraph 12,	Oral

⁸ Information received from the Czech National Navigation Authority in May 2009.

² DG TREN, Report on harmonization of boatmaster's certificates, pp.7.

¹⁰ DG TREN, Report on harmonization of boatmaster's certificates, pp.6.

¹¹ Information received from Germany in May 2009.

Country	Name and number of E-waterway ²	Sector of the waterway	Reasons for requiring local conditions knowledge ³	Local knowledge (LN) requirements	
				Professional experience (number of runs)	Modalities of examination on local conditions ⁴
				subparagraph 2	
	Untere Havel-Wasserstraße (E70)	Km 68,0 (Plaue) - km 145,8 (Havelberg)	Difficult nautical conditions Safety of shipping	16. For further details see <i>BinSchPatentV</i> , paragraph 12, subparagraphs 1-3	Oral
	Oder (E30)	Km 542,4 (Ratzdorf) - km 704,1 (Widuchova)	Difficult nautical conditions Safety of shipping	16. For further details see <i>BinSchPatentV</i> , paragraph 12, subparagraphs 1-3	Oral
	Saale (E20-04)	Km 0,0 (Mündung in die Elbe) - km 19,50 (Unterer Vorhafen Schleuse Calbe)	Difficult nautical conditions Safety of shipping	16. For further details see <i>BinSchPatentV</i> , paragraph 12, subparagraphs 1-3	Oral
Hungary ¹²	Danube (E80) Tisza (E80-01)	LN required on all inland waterways		At least, 8 upstream and 8 downstream trips	Exam on local conditions and regulations
Ireland	N/A				
Italy	N/A				
Lithuania ¹³	No				

¹² DG TREN, Report on harmonization of boatmaster's certificates, pp.12-13.

¹³ DG TREN, Report on harmonization of boatmaster's certificates, pp.13.

Country	Name and number of E-waterway ²	Sector of the waterway	Reasons for requiring local conditions knowledge ³	Local knowledge (LN) requirements	
				Professional experience (number of runs)	Modalities of examination on local conditions ⁴
Luxembourg ¹⁴	No				
Moldova	N/A				
Netherlands ¹⁵	No				
Poland	N/A				
Romania ¹⁶	No				
Russian Federation ¹⁷	Russian inland waterways are divided in 16 inland navigation districts, managed by local authorities, which establish LN requirements		Reasons for requiring LN correspond to the reasons listed in footnote 3	One month of navigation, at least	Written and oral examinations on local conditions
Serbia	N/A				
Slovakia	N/A				
Switzerland	N/A				
Ukraine	N/A				
United Kingdom ¹⁸	14 LN areas (ports and	Details on the LN sectors are listed in Annex 3 and 4 to Notice	Local knowledge proposals are	Required for some areas (Portsmouth Harbour,	Oral examination on local knowledge. The

¹⁴ DG TREN, Report on harmonization of boatmaster's certificates, p.13.

¹⁵ DG TREN, Report on harmonization of boatmaster's certificates, p.14.

¹⁶ Information received from the Romanian Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure in May 2009.

¹⁷ Information received from the Russian Federation in May 2009.

Country	Name and number of E-waterway ²	Sector of the waterway	Reasons for requiring local conditions knowledge ³	Local knowledge (LN) requirements	
				Professional experience (number of runs)	Modalities of examination on local conditions ⁴
	rivers), including rivers Thames (E60-01-05) and Mersey (E60-01)	to Masters and owners of all vessels operating commercially on inland waterways, and in limited coastal areas (MGN 334 (M)) on new national boatmaster's licence ¹⁹	considered against four criteria: (a) High traffic density: types and patterns; (b) Difficult/complex tides and streams; (c) Particular physical hazards (and the difficulty of negotiating them); (d) If no suitable charts are available for the area.	the Isles of Scilly and the Thames)	content of the examination differs from one area to another, but core competencies for Local Knowledge Endorsement are listed in Annex 4 to MGN 334 (M) Notice
United States	N/A				

¹⁸ Information provided by UK at the September 2009 meeting of UNECE volunteer experts on the mutual recognition of boatmaster's licences. Detailed information is available at the special UK boatmasters licences one-stop shop:
<<http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/mcga07-home/workingatsea/mcga-trainingandcert/ds-ss-bml1stop.htm>>

¹⁹ Available at: <<http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/mgn334.pdf>>.