



ShipMasters

PROGRAM

Canadian Institute of Nautical Sciences

A Means to Mastering the Collision Regulations

As a responsible seafarer we must be qualified to safely 'command' the vessel for which we are Master. This includes the operation of the vessel itself, how the vessel handles, being intimately familiar with the mechanical, electrical and structural characters of the vessel and competent in the vessel's electronic systems. In addition we must be willing to accept total responsibility for our crew and passengers, and we must commit every effort to avoiding injury or damage to other life, property and environment.

To accomplish this we prepare ourselves as mariners through a variety of resources. With regards to the vessel itself we learn its character and functions and we practice operating it. But what about the skills and knowledge needed to operate a vessel once the lines have been cast? Well there are programs and courses that you can take to learn vessel operations, emergency procedures, radio operations, navigational techniques and even maintenance. All of these learning opportunities are based upon practical applications where theory is committed to memory through hands on operation. The process of qualifying yourself to the minimum standards required to operate a boat in all of these areas is fairly straightforward.

There is one more area of seafaring competency that is a mandatory, and perhaps the most important area to master. It is an essential component through which we find an opportunity to avoid negligence and attain total competency. These are the rules of the road for a ship's Master; we are of course referring to the Collision Regulations. These are internationally accepted and legislated laws enforced to prevent collisions at sea. Everyone is required to know them and follow them no matter how small or how large their vessel is.

These regulations are also the most difficult part of seamanship to learn and even more difficult to apply. Despite the fact that we have available to us a myriad of programs, books and other resources we still find it difficult to master the content of the collisions regulations. Subsequently we find that an alarming number of operators are, in fact, incompetent to command a vessel. Even many commercial operators with all of their sea-going experience are vulnerable to liability because they do not understand fully the implications of all their actions on the water.

The reason for this is that Collision Regulations are written in a language that is very difficult to understand and even more difficult to learn and practice in a practical environment. As mentioned there are resources available that help 'transcribe' what the Collision Regulations mean but at the very best these materials facilitate a short-term possession of knowledge of only various elements of the regulations. The reason being is that these resources attempt only to help us understand what the rules say, not what they mean. More importantly these resources fail to teach us why rules say what they do.

Course Purpose

To provide an effective and useable method for learning and understanding the rules of the sea, specifically the Collision Regulations and other relevant federal statutes governing small craft vessel operation.

Personal Liability:

- As operators we are required to know the rules of the road. Failing to comply with them leaves us wide open to liability*
- More and more insurance companies are requiring proper licensing for insurance policies to cover claims and legal suits*
- Transport Canada are now requiring that commercial operators have the appropriate certifications – enforcement is presently weak but support from Marine Safety requires it*

Certification Preparation:

- The process of qualifying oneself for Transport Canada Exams can be confusing and frustrating – this course is one of a series that will help guide you through this process*
- The ShipMaster program also facilitates the skills and knowledge in a manner that is understandable*
- Because you have been taught to understand the material – you will remember it – very little memorizing is required*

Course Information

Materials Required:

- *Copy of the Collision Regulations (TP10739) with 1972 Canadian Modifications¹*
- *Highlighter*
- *Notebook*
- *Pen*

Course Length:

- *Sixteen (16) Hours – divided into 8 class sessions or two full days*

Course Costs: \$195.⁰⁰ includes...

- Manual*
- Laminated Reference Sheet*
- Copy of Collision Regulations*
- ShipMaster Tutorial Software*
- PCOC Certification*

¹ No other publications or interpretations of the Collision Regulations will be accepted. The success of the program solely relies upon access to and defining of the actual Office Consolidation of the Collision Regulations published by the Canadian Government, Public Works and Government Services Canada. Additional resources will be discussed during the course.