



Planning to do some boating overseas? A guide to the ICC and CEVNI qualifications

What are they?

A number of European countries are recognising the ICC (International Certificate of Competence) as meeting the requirements to operate a vessel in their waters. The CEVNI (Code Européen des Voies de la Navigation Intérieure) is an endorsement that may be required if the holder of an ICC wishes to operate a vessel in inland waterways. An ICC is valid for 5 years from date of issue.

Which countries recognise them?

The ICC should be automatically accepted in countries which have adopted what's called Resolution 40. However, of the 56 UNECE countries able to accept the resolution, the UK is one of only a handful which have fully adopted Resolution 40.

Many of the eligible countries have not accepted Resolution 40, some still apply Resolution 14 which Resolution 40 was intended to replace and others only apply Resolution 40 in part or with caveats attached. More information on the background and history can be found [here](#).

However, the ICC is however a far more useful document than the Resolution's formal acceptance would suggest.

Although acceptance of the ICC by the visited country should be because the visited country itself has adopted Resolution 40, the ICC is sometimes recognised as an acceptable certificate in the visited country's national legislation and is quite often accepted on a purely informal basis. Spain, Greece and Portugal, for example, have not adopted Resolution 40 but are still likely to ask visitors for an ICC.

The ICC may be acceptable for visiting foreign flagged vessels, foreign flagged vessels being kept in the Coastal State and/or vessels flagged in the Coastal State. It should never be assumed that the ICC will be accepted as an alternative to the national qualification of the vessel's flag state. The onus is on ICC holders to determine its acceptability by foreign states, as the ICC was never intended to be an alternative to individual national qualification requirements.

The CEVNI endorsement applies to most rivers, canals and lakes in Europe. Please note that some countries do operate a different system.

There is no guarantee that an ICC with or without a CEVNI endorsement will be accepted by a particular nation or individual official. **Travellers are strongly recommended to gain written clarification regarding what certification is required in advance.**

How can I get an ICC?

Firstly you need to decide what category of vessel you require an ICC for. You can choose from:

- Power up to 10m
- Power 10m +
- Personal Water Craft
- Sail

In addition, if you intend to operate the vessel on inland waters (rivers, canals and lakes) you may need the CEVNI endorsement – more on that later.

There are two ways to obtain an ICC

- 1) By providing evidence that you've completed a practical course (Evidential Path)
- 2) By completing an assessment. (Assessment Path)

Assessment Path

If you haven't completed the appropriate course for the category of ICC you need and you feel that you have the skills and experience needed then there are assessment options. Coastguard Northern Region can deliver assessments for Power and PWC ICCs.

If you need a Sail ICC, either Sailing Away in Auckland www.sailingaway.co.nz or RPNYC in Wellington www.sailingacademy.org.nz should be able to assist.

For a PWC ICC we can carry out a direct assessment for an RYA Powerboat level 2 qualification and get this validated for an ICC which will cover Power up to 10m and PWC's.

For Power less than 10m we can conduct an ICC assessment or an RYA Powerboat Level 2 direct assessment and get this validated for an ICC. The second option would give you both the Level 2 qualification AND the ICC.

For Power greater than 10m you can complete an ICC assessment. This is a practical assessment and must be carried out on a power vessel greater than 10m. Please note that you cannot be assessed for a power ICC on board a sailing yacht.

The application form (available [here](#)) will provide you with an idea of what the assessment will involve. Once we know how many people are being assessed (max of two at a time) and vessel arrangements etc, we can advise on costs.

Inland Waters

The CEVNI inland waters endorsement can be obtained by studying the rules and then completing the CEVNI exam. For those completing an ICC Assessment, this exam can be sat at the same time. To help you prepare, there are a number of books that cover the subject.

We'd suggest the RYA European Waterways Regulations (G17) or the RYA CEVNI Handbook (G106). Both of these publications can be purchased online [here](#) from Boat Books Ltd.

Evidential Path

If you've successfully completed an appropriate RYA or MCA practical course, the table on the next page will explain what class of ICC it could be endorsed with.

Note that the reference to Day Skipper and Boatmaster are UK qualifications and not the NZ Coastguard qualifications.

As detailed above, every candidate wishing to have the inland category validated on their ICC must pass the ICC CEVNI test.

For more information on the Evidential Path or to have an existing qualification endorsed with an ICC, contact Coastguard Boating Education direct:

Ph 0800 40 80 90

Email info@boatingeducation.org.nz

For more information or assistance just contact our Education team on 0800 262 843.

Evidence of Competence (Please send photocopies, not original certificates)	ICC Categories Validated			
	Power	PWC	Sail	Coastal waters
RYA National Powerboat Certificate (Inland) Level 2 or higher	Restricted	Yes		
RYA National Powerboat Certificate (Coastal) Level 2 or higher	Restricted	Yes		Yes
Advanced Powerboat RYA/MCA Certificate of Competence	Yes	Yes		Yes
RYA Inland Waterways Helmsman Certificate	Yes			
RYA Helmsman's Course Completion Certificate	Yes			
RYA Day Skipper / Coastal Skipper Practical Course Completion Certificate (Power)	Yes			Yes
RYA Day Skipper / Coastal Skipper Practical Course Completion Certificate (Sail)	Restricted		Yes	Yes
Coastal Skipper / Yachtmaster [®] Coastal or higher RYA/MCA Certificate of Competence (Power)	Yes			Yes
Coastal Skipper / Yachtmaster [®] Coastal or higher RYA/MCA Certificate of Competence (Sail)	Restricted		Yes	Yes
MCA Deck Officer Certificate of Competence [Any Grade]	Yes			Yes
RN, Army or RAF Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate	Yes			Yes
MCA or Local Authority Boatman's Licence	Yes			Yes
MCA Boatmaster Certificate	Yes			
RYA Personal Watercraft Proficiency Certificate		Yes		Yes

Restricted = The ICC's validity for power will be restricted to vessels "up to 10m LOA".