



INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE (ICC)

As South Australia's only internationally qualified sailing school, The Cruising Yacht Club of South Australia receives a lot of questions on ICC's. Please see below for more information on the course offered here at the CYCSA.

What is an "ICC"?

An **International Certificate of Competence** is a direct assessment of your skills to run a boat. If you are required or recommended to gain an ICC then the place to start is to buy the ICC Handbook - available at the club office, which explains all the ins and outs around its requirements and assessment process.

You will find an ICC is now required by most charter companies to charter a yacht. In simple terms it is an international boat licence to charter in coastal waters around the world. If you planning to charter on inland waters then you will need to do a further online test to gain inland approval. ICC's are different for both power and sail vessels.

How to Gain an ICC?

To get an ICC you will need to prove your competence by completing a practical and theoretical assessment for the category of ICC required. This test can be taken at accredited RYA-YA Training Centres, which are recognised as accredited ICC Test Centres - such as the CYCSA Marine Academy. A RYA Day Skipper practical certificate for sail or power (or above) is sufficient to illustrate competency, and the certificate holder may apply to the RYA for the ICC without assessment. Testers are not allowed to conduct tests away from their immediate Training Centre. However, it may be possible to be tested in your own boat at a recognised ICC Test Centre. If you use your own boat for the test, the boat owner or candidate being tested is responsible for the vessel at all times.

Categories of ICC

The ICC assessment you take should be relevant to the type of boat you plan to use and the type of waters you intend to enter. At the CYCSA Marine Academy we only run ICC for Sail. If you are looking for Power then contact us and we can provide you with some interstate options.

ICC Assessment

Before beginning an ICC, get a copy of the ICC Handbook. The Handbook outlines everything that could be tested. During the assessment there is not enough time to assess everything but you need to be confident you can complete all the tasks and requirements in the handbook.

Common areas people need help to gain an ICC

Navigation - You are expected to be capable of using a chart to determine where you are and explain the features, depths and locate potential hazards. Plot a position and determine a course to steer from a compass. Use a tide chart and have a basic understanding of GPS.



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Regulations - You will need to demonstrate you know the rules of the road. Know your navigation lights and shapes to recognise a variety of vessels. Show an understanding of IALA system and responsibilities of small vessels in narrow channels.

Safety - You have to be able to use and instruct crew on the use of safety equipment onboard such as life jackets. Demonstrate how you prepare a boat before sailing, including checks on the boat and weather for the journey.

Practical Skills - You will be expected to demonstrate manoeuvres such as departing from a pontoon, pulling up to a mooring, demonstrating man overboard and handling under sail. While sailing you will need to sail a triangular course, select appropriate sail combinations and show awareness of the wind.

People who are not confident with either Navigation, Regulations and Safety can learn or refresh their knowledge by completing our online course Essential Navigation and Seamanship - a great course completed in 6-12 hours in your own time and includes great navigational tools for use on the boat including Flexi plotter and callipers.

Sailing is universal but if you're not confident with yachts or just need some practice before being assessed then we can arrange a private 1/2 day lesson with one of our Marine Academy instructors. Alternatively if you want to learn everything from scratch we have a pathway to finish RYA Day Skipper that trains you to ICC level.

ICC Application

Once you're confident, tests can be booked with the CYCSA Race Office (8248 4222 or racing.manager@cycsa.com.au). Then all you need to do is turn up on the day with your Passport, payment details and a passport photograph. You will then need to complete an ICC Application Form. The Tester will sign the completed form and send it with a copy of your passport and photograph for processing to the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) in the UK. Your ICC Certificate will be sent directly to the address on the form. Processing times vary so you should allow up to six weeks for normal post and if opting of the fast track service allow approximately three weeks (this will enable you to receive an electronic copy of the certificate in a matter of days prior to receiving the hard copy by mail). Please note that the cost of testing is separate to the fee for issue of a certificate.

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