

ISSA OFFSHORE SKIPPER



The ISSA Offshore Skipper is the advanced level after the Inshore Skipper and qualifies the holder to skipper yachts of up to 24 metres on offshore passages in international waters, within 120 nautical miles of the coast and in heavy weather conditions.

PREREQUISITES & FRAMEWORK

Minimum age – 18 years

Recommended training duration – 40 hours (approx. 10–14 days)

At least 28 days at sea as skipper or watch officer, on at least 2 passages in 2 different sea areas

Valid SRC radio certificate (VHF/UHF)



THEORETICAL CONTENT

NAVIGATION (CLASSICAL & ELECTRONIC)

- Nautical charts, chart publications & chart symbols
- Dead Reckoning
- Lines of position, error analysis & position fixing
- Magnetic compass, variation & deviation
- Modern electronic navigation (GPS, Navionics, plotter)
- Radar basics

TIDES & CURRENTS

- Spring & neap tides
- Tidal currents & their consideration in route planning
- Tidal calculations for harbours and anchorages

PASSAGE PLANNING

- Offshore route planning
- Harbour entry at night & in poor visibility
- Pilotage in confined & coastal waters

METEOROLOGY

- Air masses, fronts & pressure systems
- Cloud types & weather phenomena
- Reading & interpreting weather forecasts (incl. modern apps)
- Barometer & storm warning signals
- Beaufort scale

COLLISION REGULATIONS (IRPCS/COLREGs)

- Comprehensive knowledge of international rules
- Lights, shapes & sound signals
- Give-way & stand-on rules

BUOYAGE & AIDS TO NAVIGATION

- IALA System A & B
- Lighthouses, lights & topmarks

BOAT SYSTEMS & EQUIPMENT

- Yacht construction & rigging
- Diesel engine basics & fuel systems
- Onboard electrics & instruments
(echo sounder, log, compass)

LOG BOOK

- The log book as an official document
- Entries for passage

PRACTICAL CONTENT

SAIL HANDLING MANOEUVRES

- Tacking & gybing
- Sail stowing & reefing manoeuvres
- Sail trim in changing wind conditions

MOTOR MANOEUVRES

- Berthing & departing in various situations
- Anchoring manoeuvres (setting, weighing, swinging)
- Manoeuvring in confined harbours & in wind & current

MAN OVERBOARD (MOB)

- Various MOB manoeuvres & recovery techniques
- Night safety of the crew

SAFETY ON BOARD

- Safety briefing and crew management
- Fire fighting & damage control
- Life raft, distress signals, EPIRB
- Environmental protection at sea

KNOTS & SEAMANSHIP

- Splicing, warps & mooring lines
- Handling of winches & blocks

EXAMINATION

The examination normally consists of a theoretical part (written test on navigation, COLREGs, meteorology, boat systems and safety) as well as a practical part on board, during which seamanship skills, manoeuvres and emergency management are assessed.

