1. SCOPE

All small power-driven vessel owners requiring competency certification with regard to inland waters, tidal rivers, estuaries and lagoons (restricted waters).

2. COURSE OBJECTIVE

To introduce the complete beginner or uncertified owner to small craft operations and to teach personal safety, seamanship and boat handling up to the standard required to skipper a small power-driven vessel safely by day and night in restricted waters with which the student is familiar.

3. CERTIFICATE

SAMSA Small Power-driven Vessel Certificate of Competence (Restricted Waters Skipper). This certificate covers small power-driven vessel operations on all inland waters, rivers, lagoons and estuaries where the water is subjected to tidal influences via an inlet to the open sea. A holder of this certificate will be confined to operations within those areas as described herein. (It also covers ports and fishing harbours after inlet to the open sea).

4. ISSUING AUTHORITY

The South African Maritime Safety Authority. The information outlined in this document is based on and extracted from *Marine Notice no. 13 of 2007,* as issued by the South African Maritime Safety Authority. This document spells out the SAMSA policy on small vessel surveys, certification and numbering, and skipper qualification and certification, in terms of the promulgated Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety) Regulations, 2007 (as amended).

5. COURSE ORGANISER

The South African Small Craft Association as a SAMSA appointed Authorised Agency.

6. SMALL VESSELS PERTAINING TO COURSE

Power driven vessels, including Personal Water Craft (PWC), jet ski, inflatable, semi-rigid and hard hull vessels with built-in buoyancy. Vessels may be equipped with any number of either outboard or inboard engines.

7. COURSE DURATION

It is a requirement that the lectures of the course occupy a period of at least 6 hours. The full course may be run during a single session. The written examination may however only be attempted at least 24 hours after the lectures session. This prerequisite is to allow the candidate time to study and practice the notes given in the course.

8. SYLLABUS AND PASS MARKS

The theory examination pass mark is 80%. The theory examination paper will cover the syllabus as outlined in the following sections:

Section	Criteria
General Terminology	③ Basic nautical terms. ③ Direction identification relative to the fore and aft line of a boat. ③ Knowledge of the different categories of vessels. ③ Name and identify parts and fittings of a small vessel.
Boat handling	③ Pre-launch routine. ③ Operating small craft and helmsmanship. ③ Trim. Weight distribution and storage. ③ Speed adjustment to suit conditions. ③ Berthing, mooring and docking procedures. Knowledge of mooring alongside, coming to a buoy, anchoring, weighing anchor and slipping from a buoy or an alongside berth, or stern or bow mooring. ③ Anchoring. Types and the appropriate usage of different types. Describe anchoring techniques and tripping an anchor. Dangers associated with the use of a grapnel anchor and having a weak link in the system. ③ Proper maintenance and upkeep of craft and equipment. ③ After-use routine.
Ropework and knots	③ Different types of ropes. ③ Handling ropes, including coiling, stowing, securing to cleats and bollards. ③ Basic knots. Ability to make a clove-hitch, bowline, reef knot and sheet bend.
Engines	③ The engine. Safe operation of outboard and inboard motors. ③ Routine maintenance. Tools and spares required. Putting into storage. ③ Basic knowledge of emergency repairs and fault finding. ③ Reviving a flooded or submerged motor. ③ The "dead man" switch. ③ Power to boat size ratio and fuel consumption.
Legal knowledge and responsibility	③ Certificate of Fitness (safety/seaworthiness certificate). Validity. Contents and conditions for issue. ③ Identification of a vessel. ③ Steps to be taken when selling a boat. ③ Launching sites and no-go areas in respect of bathers, wildlife, etc. ③ Prohibition on dumping of plastics, rubbish and oil into the water. Penalties applicable. ③ Nature conservation. Regulations and rules. ③ The responsibilities of a skipper in respect of: the safety of the vessel and her crew in all aspects of her operation; divers working from his vessel; approaching conditions of reduced visibility; and approaching storm conditions. ③ Consideration with respect to other water users. Water-skiing, shore anglers, divers and sailing craft.
Rule of the Road	③ Basic working knowledge of the application of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea. ③ Responsibilities and give-way actions between power-driven vessels, power-driven and sailing vessels and power-driven and fishing vessels in sight of one another. ③ Maneuvering signals. ③ Precautions and responsibilities when rounding a breakwater. ③ The importance of keeping a proper look-out. Keeping clear of shipping

	channels and diving operations. ③ Characteristics of the different types of lights such as, masthead, stern, all-round etc. ③ Identification of the vessels from lights they are required to display. ③ Which lights are required to be carried on a small power-driven vessel?
Environmental Aspects	③ Meteorology: Know sources of weather forecast information, can interpret forecasts. ③ A basic understanding of the wind and water conditions which would be dangerous for a small vessel. ③ A basic understanding of the formation of currents and tides. ③ Dangers associated with area of use. Bars, sandbanks, rocks, vegetation, etc.
Safety Afloat	③ Pre-departure safety. Steps to be taken including: weather check, equipment and vessel check-list, crew briefing. Voyage details: contents, reasons for and who left with. ③ Understands and complies with the rules for the wearing of lifejackets and personal buoyancy aids. Checks on the condition of a lifejacket. The danger of leaving a weight pressing on a lifejacket constructed of closed cell foam. Meaning of colour and reflector tape. When lifejackets are to be donned. ③ Safety equipment required on a small vessel. Maintenance, stowage and proper use. ③ Assisting and towing other craft. ③ Safety in loading. Dangers associated with overloading a vessel. The capsize (free surface) effect of a layer of water on the deck of a ski-boat. ③ Man overboard procedure. ③ Grounding ③ Fire procedures. Fire extinguishers - types, number required and proper use. Awareness of the hazards of fire and the precautions necessary to prevent fire. Knowledge of the action to be taken in the event of fire. ③ Getting assistance, calling for help. Distress signals available for use on the respective categories of small vessel. Identification of distress signals. Responsibility of the skipper on sighting a distress signal. Penalty for misuse. The significance of the colour of a distress flare. ③ Capsized boat procedures. Steps to take after capsizing. Danger of swimming for the shore. ③ Water-ski safety rules. ③ Dangers and prevention of exposure and hypothermia. Protective clothing. ③ The precautions to be observed when dealing with petrol vapours and inboard petrol engines. ③ Overview of basic first aid techniques; Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation; and Cardio-pulmonary-resuscitation. The recovery position. Stopping bleeding. ③ Handling and transport of injured crew member. ③ Marine related injuries - blue bottle and jellyfish stings, fish bites, etc.
Trailers	③ Launching and recovery methods for a vessel transported by trailer. ③ Launch site and slipway etiquette ③ Trailer maintenance.

9. PRACTICAL EVALUATION (20 minutes)

The candidate must perform the following actions during his/her practical evaluation:

Action	Criteria
Pre-launch procedures	· weather check, trip and ETA logged, crew-briefing, vessel check.
Launch craft	· inspect launch site, operate craft safety.
Anchor usage	· let down, set and weigh anchor.
Ropes and knots	· make basic knots and explain uses.
Routine checks	· do routine checks such as weather condition, geographical position, fuel usage, ebb and flood currents and constant lookout.
Safety	· demonstrate correct manner of donning an approved lifejacket.
Outboard motors	· show working knowledge on use, emergency repairs, maintenance.
Loading and trim	· ensure correct trim and proper stowage.
Man overboard drill	· demonstrate correct and safe method for retrieving crew member.
Capsized craft	· explain recovery procedures.
Landing craft	· Dock or land craft safety.
After-use procedures	· log trip, after-use maintenance, inspect craft, note fuel used.