

Distr.: Restricted
2 October 2013

English only

Working Party on Inland Water Transport

Fifty-seventh session

Geneva, 16–18 October 2013

Item 10 (b) of the provisional agenda

Recreational navigation:

International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure

Craft (Resolution No. 40, third revision)

Comments of Slovakia on Resolution No. 40, third revision

Note by Slovakia

1. Since September 2005 the State Navigation Administration issues certificates of competence for small craft operators in accordance with Decree No. 12/2005 Coll. of the Ministry of Transport on qualification requirements, verification of proficiency of vessel crew members and small craft operators and specimens of certificates of competence of vessel crew members, as amended (hereafter the Decree). The Decree implements Act No. 338/2000 Coll. on regulations for inland waterways and amendments to certain laws, as amended. Council Directive 96/50/EC of 23 July 1996 on the harmonization of the conditions for obtaining national boatmasters' certificates for the carriage of goods and passengers by inland waterway in the Community and other relevant acts of the European Communities are implemented through the Decree.
2. The Directive prescribes a model boatmasters' certificate for inland navigation on which the model certificate of competence for vessel crew members contained in appendix 3 of the Decree is based. Requirements for the certificate of competence for small craft operators as well as its model are contained in appendix 5 of the Decree. The Decree prescribes the following characteristics for the certificate of competence for small craft operators: dimension 8.56 cm x 5.398 cm, made of multiple layers of polycarbonate with a transparent layer on the surface of the security features, complies with the standards ISO / IEC 7810, in Slovak and German (as one of the official languages of the Danube Commission). The data on the card corresponds to the format provided in annex III of Resolution No. 40, with the exception of the address of the holder (not indicated on the card) and the date of expiry (no restriction).
3. Certificates of competence for a small craft operator issued by the State Navigation Administration are valid for inland waterways. They are recognized by foreign states on the basis of mutual agreement or under conditions of mutual recognition.
4. Applicants for certificates of competence for small craft operators must comply with the requirements set out in the Decree, which are in line with the requirements specified in annex I, section II of Resolution No. 40. The Decree defines categories of small craft and the minimum age requirement for the applicant, which are as follows:

(a) Category A small craft operator – pass an examination for category A small craft (small craft without own propulsion machinery weighing over 1,000 kg permissible load in addition to rafts designed for the transport of persons and self-propelled small craft with an output between 4 kW and 20 kW); the applicant must be at least 15 years of age; for sporting activities – 12 years.

(b) Category B small craft operator – pass an examination for category B small craft (self-propelled small craft with an output of 20 kW); the applicant must be at least 18 years of age and have passed the examination of professional competence for category A small craft operator; for sporting activities – 16 years.

(c) Category C small craft operator – pass an examination for category C small craft (small sailing craft with a sail area of 12 m²); the applicant must be at least 18 years of age and have passed the examination of professional competence of a category A small craft operator; for sporting activities – 15 years.

(d) Category D small craft operator – pass an examination for category D small craft (raft for the transport of persons in the relevant section of the waterway); the applicant must be at least 18 years of age.

5. Slovakia believes that if an additional certificate to the national certificate of competence for small craft operators is issued, it should be annexed to the national certificate. In order to avoid the issue of multiple certificates by UNECE member States, Slovakia believes UNECE is a suitable platform for harmonizing the format of national certificates of competence for small craft operators.
