



# Key information for small commercial passenger vessels carrying forestry workers



## Carrying workers on any vessel makes it a commercial passenger vessel

Make sure you register your vessel accordingly. Regulations are relative to **the size** (gross tons/length) and **use of the vessel**, not what it was designed for, or how it is currently registered. Any pleasure craft, crew boat, accommodation or fishing vessel, or even human powered vessel (e.g. row boat) that is used to transport workers is legally defined as a Commercial Passenger Vessel.

## Never carry more than allowed: there is a difference between passenger rating and capacity

Small Vessel Operator Proficiency Course (SVOP) provides a passenger rating (how many passengers you are authorized to carry) and does not include the crew necessary to operate the vessel, typically one or two on a small crew boat. For example, your SVOP may allow for 12 passengers plus required crew. However, the Capacity Label of a vessel is for all people on board. You may not carry more than your rating and capacity label allows.

**You must be trained for vessel size, passenger and crew count, and water type in BC. All the training and certificate requirements are the same except for 5 GT or less, 8 m long or less in sheltered waters where only a PCOC is needed:**

Vessel size: 5 gross tons* or less	Passenger and crew count	Near Coastal waters, Class 2 (< 25 nautical miles from shore)	Sheltered waters in BC (All fresh/non-tidal waters and some tidal near harbour areas)
Longer than 8 metres	7-12 passengers (anyone on the vessel who is not the operator or crew) + crew necessary for safe vessel operation ( <i>does not include shore crew</i> )	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP)</li> <li>2. Marine Emergency Duties (MED) (A1, A2, A3)</li> <li>3. Marine First Aid Level 1** (MFA)</li> <li>4. Marine Restricted Operator Certificate (ROC)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP)</li> <li>2. Marine Emergency Duties (MED) (A1, A2, A3)</li> <li>3. Marine First Aid Level 1** (MFA)</li> <li>4. Marine Restricted Operator Certificate (ROC)</li> </ol>
8 metres long or less	1-6 passengers + crew necessary for safe vessel operation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP)</li> <li>2. Marine Emergency Duties (MED) (A1, A2, A3)</li> <li>3. Marine First Aid Level 1** (MFA)</li> <li>4. Marine Restricted Operator Certificate (ROC)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC)</li> </ol>

Notes: \*Gross tonnage (GT) may be measured in three ways: assigned, simplified and by a duly appointed tonnage measurer. \*\*Regarding **Marine FA level 1** vs **OFA level 1 with transportation endorsement**: WorkSafeBC First Aid requirements may be different for the 'work site', but those requirements may be acceptable to meet Transport Canada requirements.

### For more information, please see:

**Sheltered Waters:** <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/bulletins-2015-03-eng.htm>

**Vessel Certificates Regulations:** <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2007-31/page-3.html#h-15>

**Small Vessel Compliance Program:** <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/svcp-menu-3633.htm> (for all commercial vessels between 0 and 15 GT, carrying 0-12 passengers, and are not fishing vessels or human-powered vessels.)

**Disclaimer:** This document is a condensed summary of some of the regulations and definitions for small commercial passenger vessels. It is not intended to replace the actual regulations. Read and understand the regulations in full before using any vessel for commercial purposes.