Working Party on Inland Water Transport

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Item 10 (b) of the provisional agenda
Recreational navigation:
International Certificate for Operators of
Pleasure Craft (Resolution No. 40, third revision)

International Certificate of Competence: practical cases on issues concerning the recognition of ICC

Transmited by the secretariat

The secretariat reproduces hereafter the questions of two ICC holders who are currently encountering problems with the recognition of their International Certificate of Competence (ICC). This information may help the Working Party to identify which measures could be taken in order to improve the recognition of the ICCs.

The information reproduced here has been anonymized.

First case

My name is […], Dutch citizen and living in Switzerland since 2014. I have an ICC for inland and coastal waters issued by the Dutch authorised body (Vamex) since 2007. Although Switzerland has agreed to the resolution "International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft", I am not able to change my Dutch ICC in a Swiss ICC and therefore I am not allowed to use motor- or sailing boats on Swiss internal waters: I have been told by the water police on the Lake of Geneva and the official authorities that I have to take again 2 examinations in Switzerland to obtain my Swiss papers for motor- and sailing boats.

I consider this close to ridiculous as the Dutch ICC like I have covers more than the Swiss ICC that concerns only inland waters. What is the value of having an ICC?

Swiss authorities asked me explicitly to change my Dutch ICC into a Swiss ICC and, even worse, the water police urged me to take again the examinations, but this time in Switzerland.

My feeling is that the Swiss authorities authorised on one hand the resolutions and on the other hand implement their own rules. But I found out that the Dutch requirements for the ICC are more complete than the Swiss requirements for the Swiss permit.

I've received a fine ("Ordonnance Pénale") from the prefecture for violation of the Swiss navigation law for an amount of CHF 300,00.

What is the value of having an ICC?

Second case

I would like to outline the problem I am experiencing, regarding my ICC licences, issued in the UK by RYA and British Waterski Federation respectively.

I have studied and obtained certificates in Powerboat Driving Level 2, and more recently qualified as Level 2 Coach in Watersking and Wakeboarding.

I operate a Water-sports business in Crete, and my Coaching Certificate was recognised and accepted by the Greek Ministry.

However, the Coastguards here in Crete are reluctant to accept my ICC, without further authorisation. They had accepted it in the past, but with the arrival of a new team at the local headquarters, questions have been raised concerning its authenticity. I've been asked to present a signed and stamped letter from the British Embassy, guaranteeing that my British ICC had been issued by a department recognised by the British Government and/or British Maritime Coastguard.

Unfortunately, neither of these departments considers that authenticating their permits is part of their tasks, so it is extremely difficult to obtain the necessary letter and signature from an acceptable authority.

This also means that I have been unable to operate my business this year, and cannot until this matter has been addressed. As you can imagine, this is incredibly frustrating, having spent so much time, effort and money into acquiring the necessary qualifications, to invest in a business that benefits tourism, and ultimately would contribute towards the economy.

I would very much appreciate any suggestions or advice about how I should proceed. Despite the fact that the information is provided also in Greek on both ICC's, this has proved insufficient for the Greek Coastguards, who have also stated that they will not accept e-mails from British authorities as confirmation. Maybe an international database would be a solution, to avoid this kind of problem?

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