WCSS Boat Handling Recertification Equivalency Program

Date of Last Revision: August 4, 2026

The following criteria must be met to be considered equivalent to the 1-day course presently offered by WCSS:

1. **Only WCSS-certified boat instructors may be contracted to conduct this training. The following individuals are current WCSS-certified instructors:**
   - Lee Tarr – ITE Training & Consulting Inc.
   - Jake Baranek – Ambipar Response Canada Inc.
   - Kale Haupt – Ambipar Response Canada Inc.
   - Todd Whitby – Big Lake Contracting Ltd.
   - Trever Miller – SWAT Consulting Inc.
   - Matt Quilley – Quill Contracting Inc.
2. **In addition to holding and sharing a copy of their Transport Canada Pleasure Craft Operator's Certificate (PCOC), MED A4 or SVOP certificates, students must provide proof that they have successfully completed the prerequisite training:**
   - WCSS Small Commercial Vessel Operator (Transport Canada MED A1, MED A2, MED A3 or MED A4 also accepted)
   - WCSS Boat Handling: Oil Spill Containment & Recovery
3. **The maximum student to instructor ratio will be 4:1 and there must be a minimum or 6 students and 2 boats.**
4. **There must be a minimum of 3 students in each boat to safely conduct all mandatory activities.**
5. **A safety plan must be developed and described to the appropriate WCSS representative to allow work boats to act as safety boats for each other, or there must be a designated safety boat with at least 2 personnel on board.**
6. **The boat recertification student proficiency checklist must be completed and signed off by one of the instructors as well as the student.**

7. **There should be at least the following equipment available for the training:**

- 400' of boom for towing (log in and log out), boom connections, and working to secure handlines.
- 2 handline bridles to practice ferrying to shore.
- Adequate length and strength of ropes with lanyard hooks on both ends.
- Appropriate anchors for the substrate, chain, and marker buoys.
- Bridge pier bridle*

*if a bridge pier is not available at the chosen training site, a modified version of bridge pier bridle deployment can be accomplished using pre-set anchors and marker buoys.

8. **Instructors must initially be in the boats with the students until all students have demonstrated sufficient competency to operate safely.**
9. **The student must attain the minimum overall rating identified on the student proficiency checklist. Contact information for unsuccessful students must be provided to WCSS as soon as possible upon completion of the course.**
10. **All documents in the Boat Handling Recertification handout must be reviewed by the instructors prior to the on-water portion of the course:**

- Boat Handling Policy
- Water Safety Guidelines
- Boat Captain's Crew & Passenger Briefing
- Vessel and Trailer Pre- and Post-Use Checklist
- Vessel Start-up and Launch Check Card

11. **The recertification must take place on a river.**
12. **Instructors will provide WCSS with documentation linked to the course outline and time spent linked to the recertification.**
13. **WCSS will approve all documentation prior to the issuance of a certificate.**
14. **WCSS maintains the right to audit the course at any time.**

NOTE: This equivalent course assumes that the company taking the course will provide their own boats and equipment. WCSS will charge $100 for each student to cover the cost of reviewing and filing the student proficiency checklist, issuing a certificate, student tracking and program auditing.

If the WCSS member company wishes to use WCSS equipment, they must be a member in good standing and sign a current Equipment Lease Agreement. There may be additional charges for WCSS to inspect the equipment, conduct an inventory and for any repairs or replacement required.