



Transport
Canada

Transports
Canada



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

**Transport Canada Marine Safety
(Hereafter referred to as "TCMS")**

And

**The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators
of the United States of America
(Hereafter referred to as "NASBLA")**

Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between TCMS and NASBLA serves to update and replace the 1999 MOU between the Canadian Coast Guard's Office of Boating Safety and NASBLA.

This agreement builds on the foundation for collaboration established by the 1999 agreement. It renews our joint commitment to partnership in the interest of proliferating safe boating knowledge and best practices in North America. Specifically, it pertains to boat operator education and training programs and to policies, standards and regulations related to course providers.

Background

TCMS is responsible for administering the *Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations* (COPCR). Originally administered by the Canadian Coast Guard's Office of Boating Safety, the COPCR were introduced in Canada in 1999 and were designed to improve overall boating safety in Canada by requiring operators of pleasure craft fitted with a motor and used for recreational purposes to carry proof of competency on board. In 2003, the responsibility of the COPCR was transferred from the Canadian Coast Guard to Transport Canada.

Safety is the driving force behind the COPCR. Prior to coming into force, there were approximately 6,000 boating-related incidents and 200 recreational boating fatalities in Canada every year. The COPCR, therefore, seek to reduce the number of recreational boating incidents, injuries and fatalities on Canadian waterways by increasing basic public awareness of safe boating practices through high quality training and consistent knowledge assessment.

NASBLA is a national, nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety in the United States. It represents the recreational

boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories. NASBLA coordinates approval of state and private boating education programs, promotes uniform boating regulations through the adoption of model acts and policies, develops methods to improve the nation's boating accident database, fosters cooperation between the U.S. Coast Guard and the states, and strives for the general advancement of boating safety.

NASBLA's mission is to strengthen the ability of the state and territorial boating authorities to reduce death, injury and property damage associated with recreational boating and ensure a safe, secure and enjoyable boating environment.

In recognition of the growing importance of international trans-border boating activity and in light of a growing trend toward government-mandated education programs, TCMS incorporated a provision in the COPCR pertaining to reciprocity whereby boating safety certificates accepted by a person's state or country of residence are also recognized in Canada. Similarly, the formal MOU between the Canadian Coast Guard and NASBLA, signed in 1999, aimed to provide a foundation for formal recognition of the Canadian Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC) as an acceptable proof of competency in the United States. As a result, the NASBLA Model Act incorporates sections that provide reciprocity of the Canadian Operator Competency Program and the validity of the Canadian PCOC in the United States.

Scope

This agreement builds on the foundation for collaboration established in the now obsolete MOU signed in 1999.

TCMS and NASBLA recognize the many benefits of regular contact with one another with the aim of better identifying areas of co-operation and the exchange of knowledge and expertise in the area of recreational boating safety education and training.

Such benefits may include, but are not limited to:

- sharing mutually beneficial tools and resources
- working together on the development of new tools to achieve program goals
- collaborating to identify solutions to address common challenges or issues
- identifying and building upon best practices in boating safety education and training
- collaborating in the area of research and evaluation in boating safety
- agreeing upon evidence-based best practices that also are confirmed by mutual professional experiences
- enhancing each organization's capacity for knowledge utilization

- foreseeing and/or anticipating issues, challenges and opportunities on the horizon and proactively developing strategies to address them

Agreement

Therefore in the spirit of collaboration and knowledge exchange, TCMS and NASBLA have decided to continue to work cooperatively to the fullest possible extent, consistent with the laws and existing regulations of our respective nations, and to contribute to advancing safe boating knowledge and best practices in North America.

We shall achieve this together through ongoing dialogue, information exchange, and sharing knowledge gleaned from professional practice pertaining, but not limited to:

- Developing, monitoring, and revising boat operator education, standards, assessment instruments and/or any related processes
- Monitoring and evaluating the impacts of boat operator education and training
- Developing, monitoring, and revising standards for the delivery of boat operator education and safety programs
- Monitoring and evaluating third party organizations authorized to deliver boat operator education and training
- Identifying best practices, challenges and advances in boating safety education and training, by mode of delivery (e.g. classroom verses web-based)
- Identifying policies, resources, and other tools to enhance boat operator education and training
- Developing and promoting boating safety education and training best practices based on objective evidence and professional experience
- Assessing the short and long-term impacts of our respective policies, resources and other tools relative to boat operator education and training
- Identifying issues, emerging trends and related solutions that might impact our respective programs, policies and/or practices

In addition, NASBLA formally endorses the Canadian boating education program and recommends and encourages all of the NASBLA state and territorial members to recognize the Canadian PCOC in their respective state or territory.

In addition to communicating openly and regularly, we further agree to meet in person annually to identify, plan for, and discuss progress on specific opportunities for sharing information and expertise, formal collaboration, and mutual benefit as described.

Effective Dates

This agreement is effective as of the date indicated below and shall remain in effect for five years from the date of signing unless terminated by written notice by either party. Either party can re-open this agreement for amendments at any time by written notice.

Signed this 28th day of September of the year 2009 on behalf of the parties represented by:

For the National Association of State
Boating Law Administrators

For The Government of Canada
as operating through Transport
Canada Marine Safety,
Operator Competency Program

Ms. Pam Dillon
Chair, NASBLA Education & Awareness
Committee
Ohio Boating Law Administrator

Mr. Naim Nazha
Director,
Transport Canada, Marine Safety

Captain Richard Moore
President, NASBLA
Florida Boating Law Administrator

Donald Roussel
Director General
Transport Canada, Marine Safety