

# Press Release

*October 2008*



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## **ABYA wins Boat Master Licence exemption**

The Association of Brokers and Yacht Agents (ABYA) has reached a successful outcome to its discussions with the MCA following the recent revision of the Boat Master Licences (BML).

The revisions to the BML, which has been in existence for a number of years, brought in small boat operators that had not been previously included and meant that brokers and dealers (of new or pre-owned boats) would have needed BMLs to take boats out for demonstrations. The BML requires First Aid, Personal Survival and Fire Fighting qualifications in addition to other qualifications such as the RYA Inland Helmsman Certificate.

Realising the full implications for small boat operators, ABYA initiated a meeting with the BMF and MCA. This established that most brokers, dealers and new boat sales personnel will have an appropriate RYA qualification and that the BML was essentially intended for commercial marine use such as workboats. It would have been unnecessarily onerous for professionals in the leisure marine sector undertaking demonstrations and sea trials, usually for a short period of time and not travelling any significant distance out to sea. The BML applies to "small vessels" under 24m and not carrying more than 12 passengers (and which in the judgement of an MCA surveyor does not pose a risk to other vessels operating in the same area).

ABYA has now secured an exemption so that small boat operators in the leisure marine sector will not need a BML. The exemption came into effect on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2008 ahead of the implementation date for the new requirements for the BML on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

For more information about the BML visit the MCA website at [www.mcga.gov.uk](http://www.mcga.gov.uk) and for more information about ABYA visit [www.abya.co.uk](http://www.abya.co.uk).

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### **Notes to Editors**

Members of ABYA are selected by Committee and are professionals with a track record of experience and competence, giving boat buyers and owners complete confidence. All members are required to adhere to the Association's Code of Practice and to have Professional Indemnity Insurance. Regular training courses are held to keep members up-to-date with current practices and technology and to ensure that ABYA is the recognised association for boat brokers within the UK and Europe.

### **Caption for picture at [www.nextstepmarketing.co.uk/press](http://www.nextstepmarketing.co.uk/press):**

*'Without the exemption secured by ABYA, simply taking a prospective client on a sea trial would have meant obtaining a Boat Master's Licence'*