

So You Want To Get Your Captain's License?

Captain Vince Comella, Retired

Why Get a Captain's License

My personal story.....

Pros and Cons

Pros

- Carries a degree of prestige.
- May reduce your insurance costs.
- Allows you to legally take remuneration from crew or passengers.

What the CG Says

“**Passenger for Hire:** means a passenger for whom consideration is contributed as a condition of carriage on the vessel, whether directly or indirectly flowing to the owner, charterer, operator, agent, or any other person having an interest in the vessel.”

Exceptions

1. Boat not equipped with auxiliary power.
2. Boat not operated on waters under the jurisdiction of the USCG.

Note: Some states may have their own licensing requirements.

Above per ASA

Pros and Cons

Cons

- Requires effort and expense. Initial and ongoing.
- May subject you to closer scrutiny in case of an incident.

License Classifications

→ OUPV or “Six Pack”

- ◆ Operator of an Uninspected Passenger Vessel

→ Master's License

→ Endorsements

- ◆ Sail, Towing, etc.



TYPES OF VESSELS

UNINSPECTED - OUPV or MASTER'S License required

- An UNINSPECTED vessel may not be operated with more than six (6) passengers for hire (regardless of size).
- It is the responsibility of the operator to maintain the vessel in accordance with the standards listed in the Code Of Federal Regulations (CFRs).
- These vessels are not required to undergo U.S. Coast Guard inspections.



TYPES OF VESSELS

INSPECTED - Masters License required

- In order to carry seven (7) or more passengers the vessel must be inspected by the U.S. Coast Guard during the manufacture of or during the conversion of an uninspected to an inspected vessel.
- Upon completion of the inspection a Certificate of Inspection (COI) will be issued. The COI is valid from 3 to 5 years.
- The vessel will also undergo scheduled Coast Guard inspections.

Requirements for OUPV

- ❑ 18 years of age
- ❑ Appropriate amount of sea time documented
- ❑ TWIC (Transportation Workers Identification Card) card granted or applied for.
- ❑ Physical Exam.
- ❑ Drug screening.
- ❑ Current First Aid and CPR.
- ❑ Social Security card.
- ❑ National Driver's License check
- ❑ Successful completion of comprehensive examinations.

Additional Requirements for Master's License

- ❑ 19 years of age
- ❑ Must be a U. S. Citizen
- ❑ Appropriate amount of sea time documented
- ❑ One additional written examination.

Sea Time - Important!

- Can start documenting at 16 years of age.
- Must be an assigned position in either the deck (helm, line tending, etc) or engineering. (Cooks and passengers do not qualify)
- Keep a log book for you own vessel(s) and when crewing have skipper/owner fill out CG form GG-719S. (All sea time must be documented on CG-719S)
- OUPV: 360 days, 90 of which in last 3 years.
- Master License: 720 days, 90 of which in last 3 years.
 - ◆ One 'day' is 4 hours or more.

Sea Time Determines

The Coast Guard will determine which license you will receive based on your Experience, Time, Tonnage and Area of Operations.

Sea Time determines....

- The type of Sea Time documented will determine the geographical boundary restrictions of your license!
 - Inland - Lakes, reservoirs, rivers, etc.
 - Near Coastal - Ocean waters not more than 200 miles offshore.
- Sea time will also determine the size of the vessel that you can operate in Gross Tonnes.
 - Gross tonnage is a measure of a vessel's useful cargo carrying capacity.
 - Has nothing to do with the weight or displacement of the vessel.
 - Copy of Coast Guard vessel registration(s) that you have served on. Indicates gross Tonnage of the vessel. Might be helpful.

What is a TWIC card?

- TWIC stands for Transportation Workers Identification Card.
- Requires a photographic ID and fingerprinting
- Takes several weeks after application as they will do a Background Investigation on you.
- Initial application is online but you present yourself to one of the agency offices.
 - ◆ Colorado Springs, CO
 - ◆ Cheyenne, WY
 - ◆ Have to present a passport or original birth certificate and photo ID.

Physical Examination

Very specific and very comprehensive -- not all physicians will understand the requirements.

Rigorous

- ◆ Certain preexisting conditions might disqualify you.
- ◆ If you are taking certain meds it might disqualify you.

Evaluation of dexterity, physical capability, balance.

Physical Examination

Hearing

- ◆ Must have adequate hearing to interpret sound signals, give commands and receive feedback.

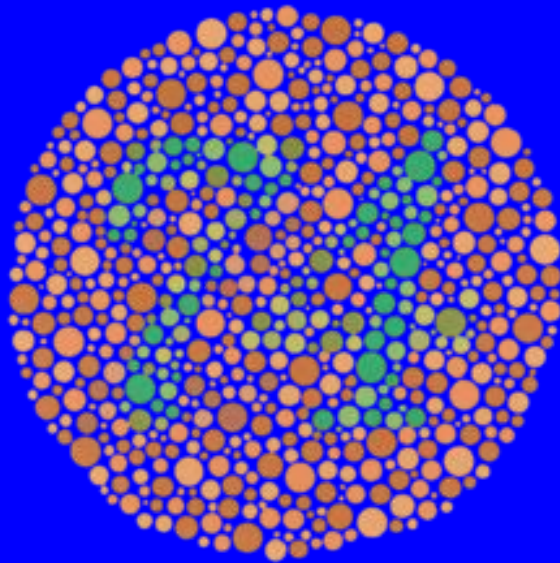
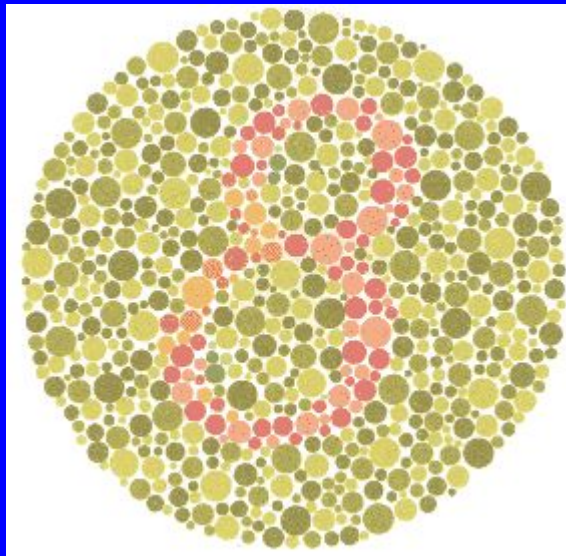
Eye Sight

- ◆ Uncorrected: 20/200 or better.
- ◆ Corrected: 20/40 or better.

Color Perception

- ◆ Tested using the Ishihara plate test.

Ishihara Color Plate Test



Drug Screening

- ❖ Required at time of license application.
- ❖ Random Testing thereafter without warning.

*Even though marijuana is legal in Colorado it is still illegal in the eyes of the U.S. Gov't. Not likely that our new AG will change that so if you test positive for marijuana they can deny or revoke your license.

Written Examinations

❖ OUPV (“Six Pack”)

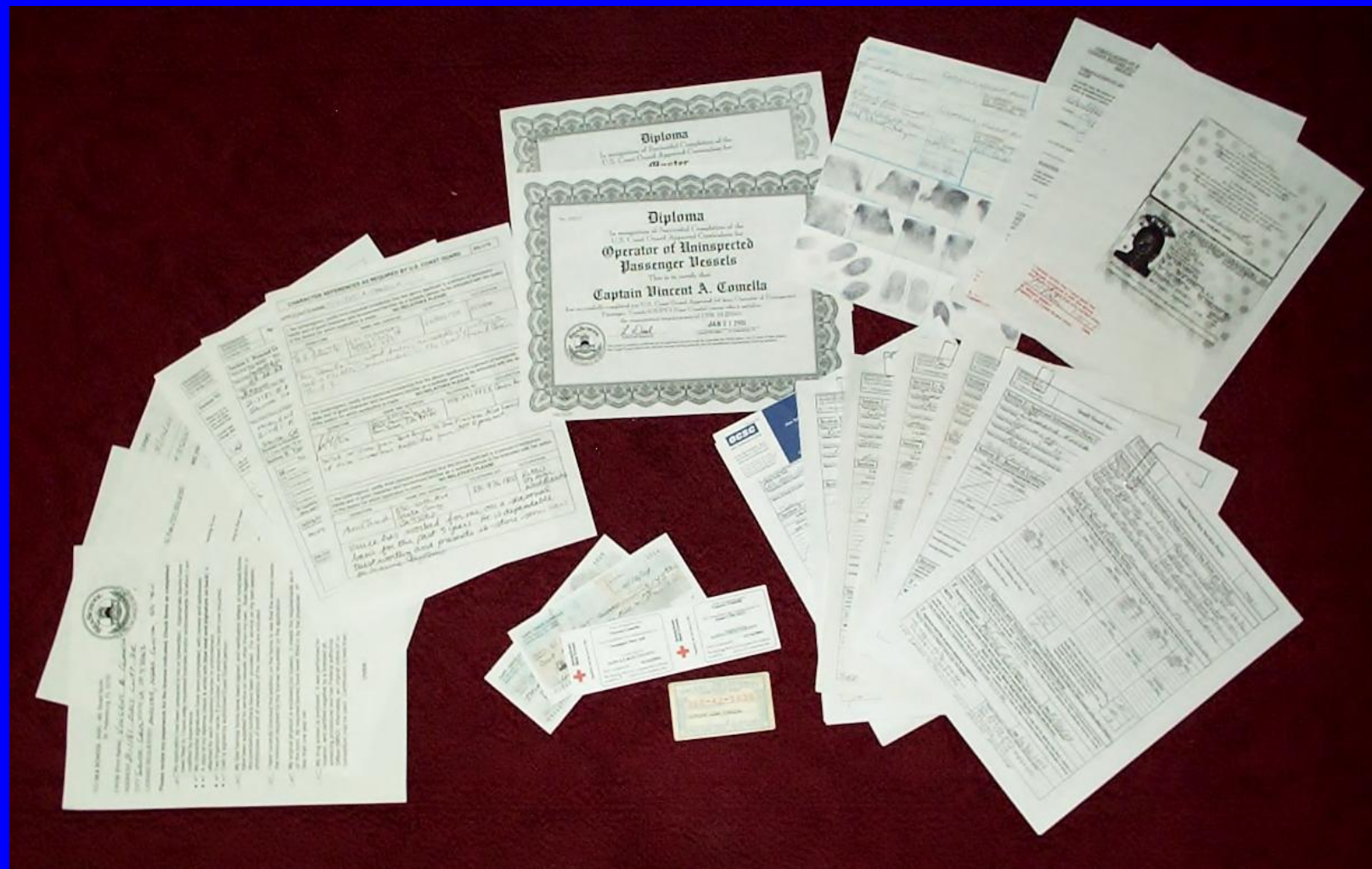
- Rules of the Road (COLREGS) 90%
- Plotting (Lat, Long, Time, Speed & Distance) 70%
- Navigation General 70%
- Deck General 70%

No on-the-water proficiency test required!

If you take a class in preparation to taking the exams they may ask you to demonstrate some proficiency in Marlinspike.

Written Examinations

- ❖ Master's Exam (one additional exam) 70%
 - Weather
 - Tides and Currents
 - Pollution
 - Cargo Handling
 - Emergencies
 - Lifesaving (first aid)
 - Fire
 - Etc.



Endorsements

- ❖ Typical Endorsements are Sailing and Towing
- ❖ Not legal to take remuneration for these activities without an endorsement.
- ❖ Requires one additional written examination.

Renewal

- ❖ License(s) must be renewed after 5 years.
- ❖ You have a one year grace period after expiration.
- ❖ Possible TWIC card renewal
- ❖ Requires a:
 - New comprehensive physical exam
 - Drug test

Renewal-con't

- ❖ Must show one of the following.
 - 360 days of sea service; or
 - Comprehensive open book exam; or
 - Take a refresher training class; or
 - Evidence of employment (3 years)

Costs - Original License

❖ Fixed Costs

➤ Plotting tools (Req'd for Plotting Exam)	\$30-45
➤ Physical Examination, eye exam, hearing.	\$20-300
➤ Drug Test	\$50
➤ TWIC Card	\$125
➤ CPR/First Aid	\$50
➤ CG Application Evaluation	\$100
➤ CG License Issuance	\$45
➤ Travel to a Testing Location	\$\$\$\$\$

Costs - Original License

- ❖ Optional Elective Costs

- Online test prep

■ OUPV	<u>Maritime</u>	<u>Sea School</u>
■ Master	■ \$595	\$395
	■ \$325	\$225

Costs - Original License

- ❖ Alternative Elective Costs

- In Class Test Prep

■ OUPV	<u>Maritime</u>	<u>Sea School</u>
	■ \$1250	\$580
■ Master		
	■ \$1250	\$325

- Some schools may provide physical, etc at time of testing!

Costs - Renewal

❖ Fixed Costs

➤ Physical Examination, eye exam, hearing.	\$20-300
➤ Drug Test	\$50
➤ TWIC Card Renewal (if needed)	\$125
➤ CPR/First Aid	\$50
➤ CG Application and Issuance	\$95

Refresher Class (on line or classroom)	\$\$\$
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The End

Whew!