



JAMES DANIEL HOLMAN
RESCUE & SAFETY TRAINING

CREW REFERENCE

THE CREW LIBRARY

The conventions, notices, free official documents and reference books that crew actually use. Every link goes straight to the official source or the publisher.



53 LINKS

17/10/2026

FREE

jamesdanielholman.com

HOW TO USE THE LIBRARY



TAP ANY ENTRY

Every entry is a link. On a phone, tablet or laptop it opens the official page or the shop.



ALWAYS CHECK THE CURRENT VERSION

Notices are amended. Open the link and check the amendment number and date before you rely on it.



YOUR FLAG STATE DECIDES

These are UK (MCA) and international sources. A yacht under another flag follows its own flag state's rules as well.



BOOKS ARE LINKED, NOT COPIED

Buy them from the publisher or the official shop. Pirated copies are often out of date as well as illegal.

— IN THE LIBRARY

01 CONVENTIONS

The international rules everything else is built on

02 MCA NOTICES

UK rules for yacht crew: certificates, medicals, contracts, rest

03 FREE DOWNLOADS

Official documents you can read or print for free

04 REFERENCE BOOKS

The books to keep on board

Links checked 17/10/2026. Websites change: if a link stops working, search the title on the issuer's own website.

THE CONVENTIONS

International rules, adopted by the IMO and the ILO. Your flag state turns them into law.

SOLAS**International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974**

Minimum safety standards for ship construction, fire protection, life-saving appliances, radio and navigation – the basis of most onboard drills and safety gear.

[imo.org](https://www.imo.org) ↗

MARPOL**International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships**

Rules on oil, sewage, garbage and air emissions from ships – drives the garbage plan, oil record keeping and discharge limits crew follow daily.

[imo.org](https://www.imo.org) ↗

STCW**International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers**

Sets the minimum training, certificates and watchkeeping standards for seafarers, including STCW Basic Safety Training and officer CoCs.

[imo.org](https://www.imo.org) ↗

MLC 2006**Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (ILO)**

The seafarers' bill of rights: employment agreements, wages, hours of rest, leave, repatriation, accommodation, food and medical care.

[ilo.org](https://www.ilo.org) ↗

COLREGS**Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972**

The rules of the road: lookout, safe speed, give-way/stand-on, lights, shapes and sound signals for every watchkeeper.

[imo.org](https://www.imo.org) ↗

LOAD LINES**International Convention on Load Lines, 1966**

Sets minimum freeboard and watertight integrity requirements so a vessel is not overloaded and stays seaworthy.

[imo.org](https://www.imo.org) ↗

ISM CODE**International Safety Management Code**

Requires a Safety Management System: written procedures, risk assessment, drills, reporting and a Designated Person Ashore.

[imo.org](https://www.imo.org) ↗

ISPS CODE**International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (SOLAS XI-2)**

Ship and port security: security levels, Ship Security Officer, access control and security drills.

[imo.org](https://www.imo.org) ↗

SAR**International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979**

Organises worldwide search and rescue regions and coordination centres (MRCCs) – explains who answers a Mayday and how rescues are coordinated.

[imo.org](https://www.imo.org) ↗

MCA NOTICES FOR YACHT CREW

MSN = Merchant Shipping Notice (the law). MGN = Marine Guidance Note (how to comply). MIN = Marine Information Note.

**MSN 1858 (M+F)
AMD 2****UK Requirements for Deck Officers on Large Yachts (24m and over)**

Certification, training and assessment route for yacht deck officers (OOW, Chief Mate, Master Yachts) on 24 m+ yachts.

[gov.uk](#) ↗

**MSN 1862 (M)
AMD 1****UK Requirements for Deck Ratings**

Requirements for deck ratings, including the Yacht Rating certificate and training record book.

[gov.uk](#) ↗

**MSN 1865 (M)
AMD 1****UK Requirements for Emergency, Occupational Safety, Security, Medical Care and Survival Functions**

The UK STCW basic safety rules: personal survival, fire fighting, first aid, PSSR, security awareness and refresher training.

[gov.uk](#) ↗

**MGN 477 (M) AMD
5****MLC 2006 seafarer's employment agreements**

What a Seafarer Employment Agreement (SEA) must contain and how it is issued and kept.

[gov.uk](#) ↗

**MSN 1877 (M)
AMD 2****Maritime Labour Convention 2006, hours of work and entitlement to leave**

Minimum hours of rest, rest-hour records, schedules and annual leave for seafarers.

[gov.uk](#) ↗

**MSN 1886 (M+F)
AMD 3****Medical examination system standards**

ENG1 medical system: MCA Approved Doctors and the medical and eyesight standards seafarers must meet.

[gov.uk](#) ↗

**MSN 1887 (M)
AMD 1****Maritime labour convention, 2006: medical certification**

Who needs a seafarer medical certificate and how certificates are obtained and validated under MLC.

[gov.uk](#) ↗

**MSN 1815 (M+F)
AMD 7****Equivalent medical certificates**

Countries whose seafarer medical certificates are accepted in place of the UK ENG1.

[gov.uk](#) ↗

MCA NOTICES

CONTINUED

REG YACHT CODE**Red Ensign Group Yacht Code (Part A large yachts / Part B passenger yachts) - July 2024 edition**

Construction, safety, equipment and manning standards for commercially operated Red Ensign yachts of 24 m and over.

[gov.uk](#) ↗

**MSN 1781 (M+F)
AMD 3****The Merchant Shipping regulations 1996 - COLREG**

How COLREGs and distress signals apply in UK law (Merchant Shipping (Distress Signals and Prevention of Collisions) Regulations 1996).

[gov.uk](#) ↗

**MGN 610 (M+F)
AMD 1****SOLAS chapter V - guidance on the merchant shipping (safety of navigation) regulations 2020**

UK guidance on SOLAS V navigation duties - passage planning, radar reflectors, life-saving signals, distress messages - including how they apply to pleasure vessels.

[gov.uk](#) ↗

**MGN 659 (M+F)
AMD 3****Entry into Enclosed Spaces**

Enclosed space risk assessment, entry permits, atmosphere testing and rescue drills under the 2022 regulations.

[gov.uk](#) ↗

COSWP 2026**Code of safe working practices for merchant seafarers 2026 edition**

The UK standard for safe work aboard - risk assessment, PPE, permits to work, working aloft and overside, mooring, galley and more.

[gov.uk](#) ↗

MIN 718 (M+F)**The Ship Captain's Medical Guide 24th Edition**

Announces the 24th edition (20/12/2024) of the medical guide for vessels without a doctor aboard; sold by TSO, not free.

[gov.uk](#) ↗

**LARGE YACHT
MASTER'S GUIDE****A master's guide to the UK Flag - Large yacht edition**

MCA guide for masters and officers of UK large commercial yachts on manning, rest hours, crew agreements, logs, safety and surveys.

[gov.uk](#) ↗

FREE OFFICIAL DOWNLOADS

Free from the issuer. Save them to your phone before you join the boat.

PDF**Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers - 2026 edition**

Full COSWP text, free for online reference (printed TSO copy needed for onboard inspection).

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk ↗

PDF**REG Yacht Code Part A - July 2024 edition**

Large yacht code for commercial yachts 24 m+ carrying up to 12 passengers.

redesigngroup.org ↗

PDF**REG Yacht Code Part B - July 2024 edition**

Passenger yacht code for yachts carrying 13-36 passengers.

redesigngroup.org ↗

WEB PAGE**Certification for deck officers on commercial and private yachts**

MCA training and certification guidance for yacht deck officers – routes, sea service, courses, links to the MSNs.

gov.uk ↗

WEB PAGE**Guidance on how to apply for a yacht rating certificate**

Forms, sea service and training records needed for the Yacht Rating certificate (MSF 4340).

gov.uk ↗

PDF**MSN 1877 Annex B - table to record hours of work and rest**

Official template for recording hours of rest.

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk ↗

PDF**Life saving signals 2021**

The SOLAS V life-saving signals table to keep on board.

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk ↗

FREE DOWNLOADS CONTINUED

PDF**R1001 The IALA Maritime Buoyage System (Ed. 2.0)**

The official buoyage system reference (Region A applies in the Mediterranean and Europe); download button on page.

iala.int ↗

WEB PAGE**Shipping forecast key**

How to read the UK shipping forecast: issue times, sea areas and gale warnings.

weather.metoffice.gov.uk ↗

WEB PAGE**Guide to marine forecasts**

Shipping, inshore, high seas and extended outlooks, Beaufort scale and sea-state terms.

weather.metoffice.gov.uk ↗

WEB PAGE**SOLAS V regulations for pleasure vessels**

Free RYA notes on the SOLAS V rules that apply to pleasure vessels under 150 GT.

rya.org.uk ↗

WEB PAGE**RYA SafeTrx and CG66**

CG66 was replaced by RYA SafeTrx in July 2018 – register your vessel and passage details with the Coastguard here.

rya.org.uk ↗

WEB PAGE**YachtCrewHelp**

Free, confidential 24/7 multilingual helpline for yacht crew – chat, WhatsApp, email, phone.

iswan.org.uk ↗

PDF**Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (including 2022 amendments)**

Full consolidated MLC text.

ilo.org ↗

REFERENCE BOOKS

Buy from the publisher or an official shop.

2027**Reeds Nautical Almanac 2027**

Annual tides, lights, port and passage data for UK and western European waters.

Bloomsbury (Reeds) · rya.org.uk ↗

**8TH EDITION,
2024****Reeds Skipper's Handbook**

Pocket quick-reference for navigation, rules of the road, lights, signals and seamanship.

Andy Du Port - Bloomsbury (Reeds) · marinesocietyshop.org ↗

**4TH EDITION,
2019****Reeds Maritime Meteorology**

Standard professional weather text for officer-level exams.

Maurice Cornish & Elaine Ives - Bloomsbury (Reeds) · marinesocietyshop.org ↗

**2ND EDITION,
2025****Reeds Crew Handbook**

Basics for new crew: ropes, knots, deck work, safety and life aboard.

Bill Johnson - Bloomsbury (Reeds) · marinesocietyshop.org ↗

3RD EDITION**Reeds Superyacht Manual**

Industry reference for superyacht crew roles, operations and regulation.

Adlard Coles (Bloomsbury) · amnautical.com ↗

**2012 EDITION,
REPRINTED 2025****RYA Day Skipper Handbook Sail (G71)**

Core coastal skippering knowledge for sailing yachts.

Sara Hopkinson - RYA · rya.org.uk ↗

**2010 EDITION,
REPRINTED 2025****RYA Day Skipper Handbook Motor (G97)**

Core coastal skippering knowledge for motor yachts and tenders.

Jon Mendez - RYA · rya.org.uk ↗

**2009, REPRINTED
2025****RYA VHF Handbook (G31)**

VHF/DSC procedures and the SRC syllabus.

RYA · rya.org.uk ↗

REFERENCE BOOKS CONTINUED

**2015 EDITION,
REPRINTED 2025**

RYA Collision Regulations (G2)

Full COLREGs text with plain-English explanation and diagrams.

RYA · rya.org.uk ↗

**2017 EDITION,
REPRINTED 2025**

RYA Weather Handbook (G133)

Practical weather for small-craft and yacht crews, both hemispheres.

Chris Tibbs - RYA · rya.org.uk ↗

**NEW EDITION,
2026**

RYA First Aid Book

Marine first aid companion to the RYA First Aid course.

RYA & Nigel Barraclough · rya.org.uk ↗

**24TH EDITION,
2024**

The Ship Captain's Medical Guide

The UK medical reference for vessels with no doctor aboard; required carriage on UK commercial vessels.

MCA - TSO · tsoshop.co.uk ↗

2026

Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers - 2026 Edition (print)

Printed version required for onboard use and inspection on UK vessels.

MCA - TSO · tsoshop.co.uk ↗

LATEST EDITION

ADMIRALTY Mariner's Handbook (NP100)

Core seamanship and navigation reference: charts, publications, weather, ice and regulations.

UK Hydrographic Office · admiralty.co.uk ↗

LATEST EDITION

Symbols and Abbreviations used on ADMIRALTY Paper Charts (NP5011)

Key to every chart symbol and abbreviation (INT 1).

UK Hydrographic Office · admiralty.co.uk ↗