

Competency Guidelines for Apprentice Watermen and Lightermen.

Year 1

Ancillary Safety Courses [Fire Fighting, First Aid, GMDSS and VHF, Personal Sea Survival] Basic rope work, elementary geography, role of deck staff, principles of boat handling, maintaining a course between two points. Identify parts of a barge. Introduction to tides.

Year 2

Further development of rope work, a fuller understanding of knots and splices, mooring configurations, use of ropes in the towing environment. Enhancing boat skills, rounding, general manoeuvring and fetching piers. BML 1 Course. More detailed geography of the river. An introduction to regulations. Advanced tidal information.

Year 3

Application of Health and Safety in the river environment. Demonstrate an ability to handle a vessel without constant supervision. An understanding of the role of the tug in the towing situation. Knowledge of trim, heel and yaw. Loading differing cargoes into dumb craft. Fuller appreciation of regulations. BML 2 Course and generic licence examination including Local Knowledge Endorsement.

Year 4

Specialist endorsement training in the workplace. The role and responsibilities of a Captain. Advanced river geography boat and tug handling. Safety management training.

Year 5

Further endorsement training and examination. Preparation for Waterman and Lighterman's certificate and examination.

Year 6 and onwards

To further develop skills across the whole range of river operations by means of accredited courses and peer training in the workplace.