

**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
BOC-OTW TRAINING COMMITTEE**

**Endorsement
Handbook**

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United States Power Squadrons

1504 Blue Ridge Road

PO Box 30423

Raleigh, NC 27622

Voice: 919-821-0281

1-888-For-USPS (367-8777)

Fax: 919-836-0813

888-304-9813

www.usps.org

The material presented in this guide is subject to change without notice; thus it may not reflect current policy. To obtain the latest policies and/or changes to the BOC program please refer to the BOC Website within the Education Department website at USPS.org.

For information regarding insurance coverage of United States Power Squadrons sanctioned events, please refer to the insurance information on the USPS.org website.

Endorsements

Introduction

BOC Endorsements certify special additional skills such as types of boat or region of boating. Endorsements may be applied at any level of BOC certification. The endorsements available at the time of publication are included for reference below.

Endorsement Overview

The following is a list of current endorsement acronyms and their definitions:

Canadian Regulations Endorsement

CAN – Canadian regulations (includes radio operation, rules of road and navigation aids).

The applicant must complete the following:

1. Possess a Canadian Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC). The PCOC Card can be acquired by taking the Canadian Power Squadron (CPS-ECP) or other accredited provider's PCOC Course in person or can be taken online;¹ or
2. Proof of having passed a boating safety course in Canada before April 1, 1999; or
3. A specified marine certificate — visit the Canadian Boating Safety website² <http://tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-menu-1362.htm> for the approved list; or
4. Canadian certificates of competency; training certificates and equivalencies directly pertaining to the operation of a vessel are recognized as proof of competency when operating a boat fitted with a motor that is used for recreational purposes. The current list contains over 90 such professional certificates, courses and equivalencies.³

¹ www.cps-ecp.ca/card.html

² www.boatingsafety.gc.ca

³ tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-courses-pcoc-list-marine-safety-certif1323.htm#Department_of_National_Defence_Certificates

European Regulations Endorsement

EURO – European regulations (includes rules of the road, navigation aids, etc.) that are covered in CEVNI - Code European des Voies de la Navigation Interieure - European Code for Inland Waterways.

The USPS BOC Program is compliant with UN Resolution No. 40 except for the CEVNI rules. You must show Royal Yachting Association of the United Kingdom (RYA) card having passed a CEVNI test to receive the EURO endorsement.

With the EURO endorsement your BOC IN or higher certification complies with UN Resolution No. 40.

Inland Waterway Endorsement

IW – Inland Waterway - skills related to traversing locks, and dealing with the special hazards of canals, and rivers such as currents, rapids and dams. Completing the Boating on Rivers, Lakes and Locks seminar is required to earn the IW endorsement.

Paddle Endorsement

PAD – Paddle boats (e.g., canoes and kayaks). Completing the Paddle Smart seminar is required to earn the PAD endorsement.

Sail Endorsements

SA – The Sail Endorsement (BOC-SA) is earned by successfully passing the Sail Course. No OTW demonstration is necessary.

SAX – The Advance Sail Endorsement (BOC-SAX) is under development.

Endorsement Costs

There is no cost for an endorsement if done at the same time as a level completion. If done separately there is a fee (currently \$10) to cover reprinting and mailing a new card. Please make checks out to USPS and send to *Attention: USPS Accounting* at HQ with an explanation of what the check is for.