

Q. What are the certification levels?

A. Basic – 30-32 ft.; Advanced – 33-34 ft.; Superboat – bigger or more complex systems.

Q. How may I become eligible to upgrade from Basic to Advanced boats?

A. 5 charters in the current classification boat size (or equivalent) must be completed in addition to the Advanced Class (or equivalent) and exam.

Q. Can I take the Advanced class before I have the required 5 charters in my name?

A. Anyone can take any class at any time for personal improvement or interest, but it may not qualify for certification upgrade.

Q. What if I complete my 5 charters before my last upgrade class, or soon after?

A. Notify the instructor. You may certify during the class, or if you get your 5th charter soon after the class ends and have done well in class you may also upgrade.

Q. What if I successfully complete a class but I don't get enough charters in my name until several months later?

A. If a member completes a class without the required number of charters for eligibility (or equivalent), that member may need to recertify for the new certification level. This depends on how long it has been and how skillfully that member performed in class, particularly ability to control the boat during docking maneuvers.

Q. What does (or equivalent) experience mean?

A. Prior experience on vessels with inboard engines and wheel steering. Notify the instructor during class for notation on your Progress Card.

Q. I have heard it may be possible to upgrade to charter 32 ft. boats after 3 or 5 successful 30 ft. charters. How does that work?

A. Some members who do particularly well in class may qualify for 32 ft. charters. This is usually because of prior experience. The same may occur after 3 or 5 successful 30-31 ft. charters and a request for upgrade to the 32ft. boats.

Q. How do I qualify to charter Superboats?

A. After a member has completed the 5 charters for upgrade to Advanced Seamanship Certification and then 5 more in the 32 ft. plus range, they will need a private lesson on a designated 36-37 foot boat (\$250 - 3hrs on water) which qualifies them to charter this size boat. After 3 charters on 36-37ft., that member may be eligible for larger Superboats. This upgrade requires a checkout on the vessel being chartered, with either the owner of the boat or Aventura Operations Management (dock the boat several times and go over the Boats systems \$75). For members with extensive background in larger boats, we may at our discretion waive some requirements.

Q. Can I lose my certification if I am inactive for an extended period of time?

A. As stated in the Member Manual, not chartering within a 9 month period may require recertification. It is important to keep active to maintain skill levels as a skipper of a vessel. Socially oriented club sailing activities do not count unless you are the skipper of the vessel, particularly during docking/undocking maneuvers. If you have actively skippered a non-Aventura vessel, it may be counted if you submit an affidavit verifying that experience. Specific club refresher clinics may also count for maintaining certification.

Q. Can I be downgraded if I have problems controlling my boat?

A. If at any time a member shows evidence of inability to control a boat, particularly during docking maneuvers, that member may be reduced to a lower classification level. Take clinics and refreshers to avoid falling into this trap!