



Quality training in water sports

1. Project background

As part of the deregulation efforts in recreational boating, the governing parties in the German Bundestag introduced the motion 'New impetus for recreational boating' on 29 November 2011 and adopted it on 26 January 2012 (German Bundestag Drs. 17. /12792).

Against the backdrop of numerous uncoordinated and sometimes even competing training standards of sports associations and commercial training organisations, the motion calls for.

- to define a common catalogue of criteria,
- to develop a standardised quality seal that guarantees minimum standards in training, and
- transparency for customers.

To realise this demand, the water sports associations

DMYV - German Motor Yacht Association

VDS - Association of German Sports Boat Schools

VDWS - Association of German Water Sports Schools e.V.

have joined forces to form the **Quality Training in Watersports Working Group - QAW**. The working group is basically open to all training associations.

2. The new 'Quality training in water sports' system

2.1 Objectives of the certification

The training of water sports enthusiasts is of crucial importance in recreational boating.

With the introduction of the QAW system, the following objectives are to be achieved on the basis of standardised and verifiable quality criteria:

1. Increasing the quality level of training.

Only certified schools/associations may use the QAW seal, which is jointly promoted by the QAW associations. This creates incentives for training centres to join the system and raises the general level of training in the medium and long term.

2. Increasing transparency for consumers.

Certification is based on a catalogue of quality criteria developed jointly by the participating associations. All training centres that join the QAW system are obliged to publish the underlying minimum criteria and thus make them accessible to consumers.

3. Access for other training centres.

Certification is carried out by the organisations that have joined the QAW system. To ensure free access to the market, other schools and associations can receive the QAW seal, provided they are members of one of the participating associations, fulfil the quality criteria and have been certified by the joint committee of all QAW associations.

2.2 Advantages for students/course participants

1. Schools that carry the QAW signet fulfil extensive and verified quality criteria and therefore offer the best conditions for quality-oriented training.
2. Schools that carry the QAW signet stand for transparency with regard to training centre, training content, qualification of trainers and pricing.
3. Schools that carry the QAW label must provide evidence of fulfilment of the quality criteria at regular intervals.

2.3 Content requirements - minimum criteria

The catalogue of criteria has a dynamic character. Individual criteria can be adapted to changing framework conditions (e.g. changes in legislation).

The formulated individual criteria are minimum criteria and must be fulfilled for certification with the QAW logo.

The criteria catalogue comprises the following sub-elements.

- A. Requirements for school and equipment
- B. Requirements for training
- C. Requirements for the training staff
- D. Requirements for transparency and service

2.4 Overview of the system

Sponsorship/ Implementation	The sponsors of the system and holders of the rights to the QAW seal are the associations that are members of the QAW working group (currently: DMJV, VDS and VDWS).
Participants/ Applicants	Commercially operated training centres and clubs that provide water sports training.
Prerequisites	Fulfilment of the defined minimum standards and successful participation in the certification process. When the certification notice is handed over, the training centre must make a voluntary commitment to comply with the criteria. If there is evidence of repeated/prolonged and culpable and serious non-compliance with the voluntary commitment, the certification and thus also the use of the QAW seal can be withdrawn.
Elements of the system	Members of the QAW training associations (DMJV, VDS and VDWS) receive certification on the basis of fulfilment of the admission requirements of the respective association following a daily review of the admission criteria. New training centres joining the associations receive certification after fulfilling the defined admission criteria and a company location check by representatives of the QAW training associations (currently: DMJV, VDS, VDWS). If possible, there should be equal representation.
Duration	The certification is valid for five calendar years from the date of award. An update of the written evidence is required for subsequent certification. The site check can be carried out using the random check procedure.

A. Requirements for school and equipment

1. Formal requirements

Schools that are members of one of the QAW training associations recognise the school recognition guidelines and the training regulations of the respective association.

Minimum criteria

1. Fulfilment of the commercial and tax requirements of a company.
2. Proof of ownership.
3. Secure access to the training waters at all times. Confirmation of the right of use by the owner or authorities.
4. Proof of adequate public liability insurance.
5. Informative website that fulfils the legal requirements with the following minimum content:
 - Information in accordance with point D of the 'Transparency & Service' criteria catalogue
 - Reference to membership of the association
 - Presentation of the QAW signet with stored quality criteria catalogue
6. Declaration of commitment to provide training for the acquisition of official recreational boating licences or other certificates and certificates of competence in accordance with the applicable in accordance with the applicable regulations and implementation guidelines.
7. Declaration of commitment to carry out the training and examination for the acquisition of the association's internal certificates of competence and certificates in accordance with the regulations of the respective association.

2. Requirements for buildings and infrastructure

Minimum criteria

1. Presentation as a training centre, e.g. by means of a company sign and flag in the outdoor area.
2. Visually appealing storage and presentation of training materials.
3. Cleanliness in the guest area, workshop and staff area.
4. Functional organisation of the maintenance and inspection process.
5. Registration and an office as well as other typical elements that indicate a professional training centre to the consumer.

Sanitary facilities

1. sufficient changing facilities (if required).
2. adequate sanitary facilities.
3. regular cleaning and cleanliness checks of toilets and showers.

3. Requirements for the training rooms

Minimum criteria

1. The training may only take place in own or permanently rented premises.
2. The premises must be suitable for theory lessons and have sufficient lighting and daylight.
3. An appropriate number of individual and group workstations must be available.
4. Aids for teaching the subject matter such as models, blackboard or flipchart, as well as modern media technology for presentations (projector, TV, videos, internet connection, ...)
5. Training material for the training company must be stored and presented in a visually appealing way. If it is necessary for the training objective, it should be available (also digitally possible):
 - a. Traffic and safety regulations
 - b. Nautical charts and equipment
 - c. Sea and harbour handbooks, tide calendars
 - d. Announcement media, e.g. 'Nachrichten für Seefahrer' (NfS) or 'Bekanntmachungen für Seefahrer' (BfS)
 - e. Electronic aids to navigation
 - f. Radio equipment (only for radio training)
 - g. Sufficient number and quality of learning aids of the affiliated association per student
6. knot boards and ropes for practising.

4. Requirements for teaching equipment and training boats

Training boats and equipment must fulfil the requirements of the relevant legal provisions in their current version as well as the association's specifications with regard to design, approval and equipment.

Minimum criteria

1. The boat for training for the official driving licences should have a solid fuel hull and be suitable for training and instruction at the same time. It must have room for at least 3 people and be equipped with the appropriate/prescribed safety equipment.
2. The training centre must have an appropriate number of training boats or a corresponding fleet of boards and equipment for all courses offered.
3. Proof must be provided that liability insurance has been taken out for all training boats and water sports equipment. It must be ensured that the students and course participants are also insured against accidental damage.
4. The minimum equipment required is.
 - Sufficient number of life jackets
 - Marker buoy or other suitable means for the MOB manoeuvre
 - Approved radio, log, echo sounder, steering and hand bearing compass.
(if required), anchor.

When training for beach sports:

- If the legal conditions or the special features of the area require it, a motorised rescue vehicle must be available (always necessary for kitesurfing except in standing areas).
- For all beach sports, sufficient protective clothing against the cold must be provided in compliance with the relevant hygiene regulations.

B. Training requirements

There are currently no official regulations and implementation guidelines for training for official driving licences. The training

is based on the implementation guidelines of the training associations.

Minimum criteria

1. The training should be designed in such a way that, in addition to the material relevant to the examination, further content is taught in order to understand the interrelationships that enable the safe operation of a recreational craft or sports equipment.
2. Appropriate course duration in relation to the learning objectives.
3. Appropriate number of course participants in relation to the desired learning success.
4. Recommendation: minimum hours of instruction
 - Recreational craft licence - Sea: Theory = 15 hours
 Practical = 3 hours
 - Pleasure craft licence - inland/motor: Theory = 10 hours
 Practice = 2 hours
 - Combined -/sail and engine: Theory + practice = 25 hours

For training for the voluntary basic licences/experience certificates:

Training regulations and implementation guidelines of the training associations DMYV, VDS and VDWS.

C. Requirements for training personnel

There is no job description for sailing or motorboat instructors in Germany.

However, in order to guarantee a high quality of training in schools and clubs, the QAW member associations have a licence system for instructors.

Detailed information can be found at

<https://www.dmyv.de/fileadmin/content/pdf/downloads/ausbildungsstaette/Richtlinie-Anerkannte-Ausbildungsstaetten.pdf>

[www.sportbootschulen.de/segellehrer/uebersicht /](http://www.sportbootschulen.de/segellehrer/uebersicht/)

www.vdws.de/instructorenausbildung

1. School or training managers must be in possession of a valid instructor licence from a QAW member association.

Currently recognised are.

- a. the DMYV instructor licence
- b. the sailing instructor licences of the DSV
- c. the sport boat instructor licences of the VDS
- d. the VDWS instructor and school manager licence

2. The obligation to undergo regular further training is regulated by the training guidelines of the issuing association.

D. Requirements for transparency and service

The training centre informs its customers in an appropriate manner, e.g. through its own website, digital media, print media, advertising brochures or information events, at least about

1. the content and timing / scope of the courses
2. course content and completion
3. available boat fleet
4. training rooms & their accessibility (e.g. incl. directions)
5. the course fee - including all additional costs
6. information on the current examination fee - including all additional costs
7. general terms and conditions

The following additional information would be desirable:

1. area information
2. clear presentation of the current boat park / board offer & other water sports.
3. equipment
4. guarantee of the book ability of offers.

These new regulations supplement the contract of 27 July 2013 and come into force upon publication.

Place, date

Frank Dettmering, President DMYV e.V.

Place, date

Dietmar Damith, 1st Chairman VDWS e.V.

Place, date

Frank Lochte, President VDW e.V.