



## Texas Party Boat Operator Licensing Exam Procedure

**\*\* All Party Boat Operator License Program information will be available on the TPWD website by June 1, 2008. For up-to-date procedures, forms, contact information, inspection procedures, and study guides, see [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/partyboat](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/partyboat) \*\***

The following material describes the Texas Party Boat Operator Licensing Exam Procedure and the course of study leading to the Texas Party Boat Operator's License as prescribed by House Bill 12, Section 19A (HB-12), passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007.

The Texas Party Boat Operator Licensing Program (PBO) is a program to provide a combination of on water experience as well as a course of study and examination process that complies with the statute/regulations and coincides with existing boater education course efforts via instructor-led course, Internet and home study.

The three major components to the exam procedure are: 1. Completion of the formal course of instruction providing the knowledge required to successfully complete the Texas Boater Education Certification (Basic Boating Course); 2. Study Guide Outline with associated reference materials to provide knowledge required to pass the required PBO licensing examinations; 3. The PBO examinations themselves.

**The course of study is referred to as the Texas Party Boat Operator Licensing Exam Procedure. It is divided into two separate parts; Part A and Part B.**

**Part A** consists of the Texas Boater Education Course to provide fundamental boating knowledge. It must be taken as a pre-requisite to taking Part B (Advanced Material) via an instructor-led course, Internet or home study. Information on how to take Part A is available under Boater Education on the TPWD web site, [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/boat](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/boat).

**Part B** contains the more advanced material required for commercial inland marine operations. This part consists of an explanation of the provisions of House Bill 12 (now incorporated into Subchapter G of the Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 31, and Subchapter H of the Texas Administrative Code) plus subjects required by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) chosen as relevant to commercial operations for passenger vessels by TPWD; primarily those required to become a USCG Captain.

All of the questions found in the examinations required for the issuance of the Texas Party Boat Operator's License are explained in the course material (Part A) or the study guide (Part B).

The examination administered to the potential licensee shall consist of 35 questions. Ten of the questions will be taken from Part A and the remaining 25 from Part B. Of the 25 questions taken from Part B, five will be taken from Section I (House Bill 12

Provisions) and 20 from Section II (USCG Master License Required Subjects). Of the 20 questions taken from Section II, 10 will pertain to the USCG Navigation Rules (Rules of the Road).

Four different examinations are provided. Examination A should be used for exams administered during an odd numbered month (January, March, May, etc.); Examination B during even numbered months; Examination C as a first “re-take” exam; and Examination D for a second re-take. This rotation will significantly reduce the probability of compromising the validity and integrity of the licensing process.

**The examination minimum passing score is 70%.**

**Basic Applicant Requirements:**

- PBO License required of operators of charter vessels carrying more than six passengers and 30 feet or more in length, operating on inland waters. The only exemption from this requirement is if the operator holds a USCG Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel (OUPV) License, often referred to as a “6-pack license,” or higher level of Captain’s license issued by the USCG.
- Age 21
- Complete Boater Ed Course (Part A - applies to all applicants) and Party Boat Operator License Exam (Part B – Advanced Materials)
- Provide completed Application
- Applicant must meet minimum requirements below to qualify for a Party Boat License:
  - 4 hours of observation and 4 hours of operation of a Party Boat (see maneuver/drill form and submit as attachment to application)
  - No current license suspension/revocation or record of boating violations
  - Submit the required feeOR have and document 25 hours of experience operating a party boat and no record of boating violations

**Applicant must contact TPWD Boater Education staff to arrange for a proctored exam for Part B (Advanced Materials), before submitting the Application: 512-389-4938 or [education.tpwd@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:education.tpwd@tpwd.state.tx.us)**

**Exam may be taken before or after completed application is submitted, but license will not be issued until exam is completed successfully.**

Applicant submits above items with completed application package and fee of \$125.00 for original license to a TPWD office. **Completed application should be mailed to: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, TPWD Party Boat Operator Program, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744**