

# Certificate for Operator of Pleasure Craft in The Netherlands

## **Klein Vaarbewijs**

By Thijs Vervoort / 12-Sept-2019

ASML Sailing Club The Netherlands receives often questions related to sailing certificates in The Netherlands. Below, the conditions are stated when such a certificate is needed by law. But just like in road traffic, a basic understanding of regulations is needed at all times when you decide to participate in traffic on open water.

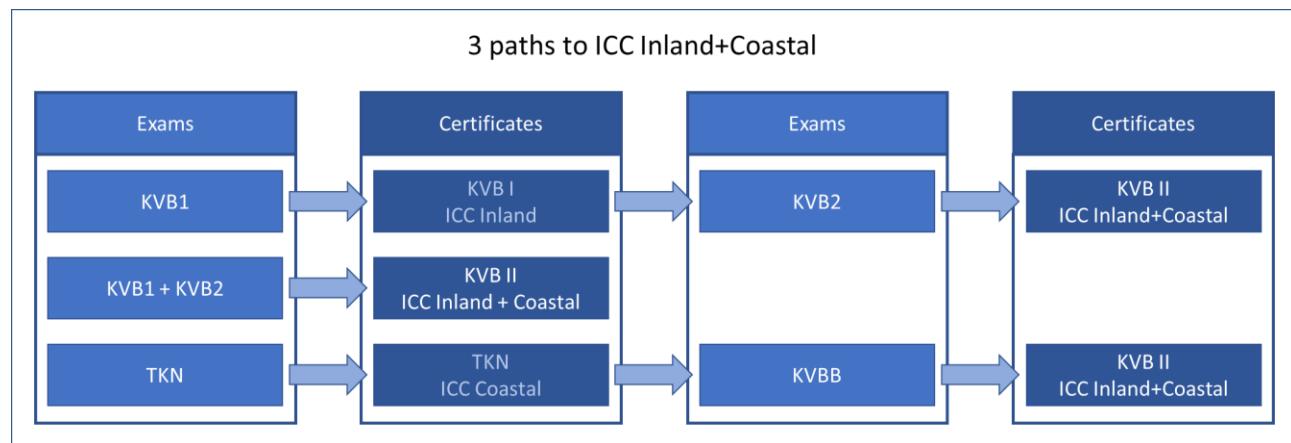
Certificate for Operator of Pleasure Craft in The Netherlands = Klein Vaarbewijs

“Klein Vaarbewijs” is mandatory by Dutch law for:

- Pleasure crafts with a boat length of 15 to 25 meter.
- Motor boats shorter than 15 meter, that can travel faster than 20 kilometer per hour through water; including, jet ski's and other types of personal water crafts.
- Certain types of professionally used boats with a boat length of 15 to 25 meter.

There are two versions of Klein Vaarbewijs: Klein Vaarbewijs I and Klein Vaarbewijs II. Klein Vaarbewijs II is the equivalent of the International Certificate of Competence inland and coastal waters.

In practice, there are 3 paths to get an International Certificate of Competence inland and coastal waters; see schematic depicted below. Details on the paths, exams and certificates are provided in the following paragraphs.



To enable you to digest the provided information in an easy manner, this article is split in the following paragraphs:

- "Klein Vaarbewijs I + II" certificates and exams
- Standards Agency "Klein Vaarbewijs"
- "Klein Vaarbewijs" courses
- International Certificate of Competence (ICC) inland and coastal waters
- "Theoretische Kustnavigatie" (TKN) certificate and exams
- TKN courses
- "Klein Vaarbewijs II" while in possess of TKN certificate

## Klein Vaarbewijs I and II certificates

It's good to know that all courses and exams described in this article are in the Dutch language. By exception and special personal request, exams can be done verbally in English. Still, preparation can be difficult as training materials are all in Dutch. If you are not proficient in the Dutch language, and you need an equivalent certificate, the best recommendation we can give is to look for an International Certificate of Competence inland and coastal waters (ICC) course and exam in your home country. As mentioned previously, it may very well not be needed at all due to the requirements by Dutch law.

Klein Vaarbewijs certificates are valid for life.

### Klein Vaarbewijs I certificate

Klein Vaarbewijs I certificate is the equivalent of the International Certificate of Competence (ICC) inland waters. This will also be stated on your certificate card.

Klein Vaarbewijs I certificate is applicable on rivers, canals and lakes. To acquire the Klein Vaarbewijs I certificate you need to pass the Klein Vaarbewijs 1 exam → KVB1.



Exam Content KVB1 (in Dutch)

Afbakening Examens Klein Vaarbewijs KVB1

<https://www.vamex.nl/content//uploads/Afbakening-KVB1-feb-2019.pdf>

## Klein Vaarbewijs II certificate

Klein Vaarbewijs II certificate is the equivalent of the International Certificate of Competence (ICC) inland and coastal waters. This will also be stated on your certificate card.

Klein Vaarbewijs II certificate is applicable on rivers, canals lakes AND on the remaining large Dutch open waters; Eems/Dollard, Waddenzee, IJsselmeer, Markermeer & IJmeer and the Oosterschelde & Westerschelde. To acquire the Klein Vaarbewijs II certificate you need to pass the Klein Vaarbewijs 1+2 examens → KVB1+KVB2. You can pass the KVB1+KVB2 exams separate or as a combined version.



## Exam Content KVB2 (in Dutch)

Afbakening Examens Klein Vaarbewijs KVB2

<https://www.vamex.nl/content/uploads/Afbakening-KVB2-meい-20191.pdf>

<b>Exam</b>	<b>KVB1</b>	<b>KVB2</b>	<b>KVB1+KVB2</b>
<b>Duration in minutes</b>	60	90	60+90
<b>Amount of Questions</b>	40	27	40+27
<b>Maximum score in points</b>	80	50	80+50
<b>Minimum score to pass in points</b>	56	35	56+35
<b>Question type</b>	Multiple choice	Majority Multiple choice	Majority Multiple choice

VAMEX Exam pricing 2019

Klein Vaarbewijs 1 (KVB1) € 42,-

Klein Vaarbewijs 2 (KVB2) € 50,-

Klein Vaarbewijs 1+2 (KVB1+KVB2) € 70,-

More details on "Klein Vaarbewijs" to be found on the Standards agency website (in Dutch):

<https://www.vamex.nl/home/klein-vaarbewijs-2>

## Standards Agency “Klein Vaarbewijs”

Standards Agency Certificate for Operator of Pleasure Craft in The Netherlands is VAMEX;  
[www.vamex.nl](http://www.vamex.nl).

VAMEX exam locations ALKMAAR / DEN BOSCH / DORDRECHT / ZOETERMEER / ZWOLLE

### **Important note:**

VAMEX will stop offering exams and certificates per end of 2019. CBR, the Driver Standards Agency in The Netherlands, will take over the responsibility of VAMEX per January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. CBR is already offering the exams for professional inland shipping.

The CBR agency mentions that there are NO negative effects of this transfer:

- certificate remains exactly the same
- same exam
- no additional practical exam
- nothing changes for card renewal
- last but not least: 20 CBR instead of 5 VAMEX exam locations

## Klein Vaarbewijs courses

VAMEX does not provide any recommendations as it states it's an independent organization. It does provide a document that contains exam preparation tips:

<https://www.vamex.nl/content//uploads/Tips-Examenvoorbereiding.pdf>

ANWB provides good training material KVB1 and KVB2:

<https://www.anwb.nl/water/varen/producten/klein-vaarbewijs-1-en-2>

## International Certificate of Competence (ICC) inland and coastal waters

*Quote Wikipedia:*

"An International Certificate of Competence (ICC) is a certificate, which may be issued to anyone who has successfully completed certain national boating licenses or has passed an examination to prove the necessary competence for pleasure craft operation. ICC is the only sailing license approved by United Nations as a legitimate recreational sailing license.

In very general terms an ICC is required for the inland waterways of Europe and for inland and coastal waters of Mediterranean countries."

International Certificate of Competence (ICC) inland and coastal waters

[https://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc3/icc\\_resolution\\_40.html](https://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc3/icc_resolution_40.html)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Certificate\\_of\\_Competence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Certificate_of_Competence)

<https://www.vamex.nl/home/varen-in-het-buitenland>

Extra note on Royal Yacht Association ICC (i.e. United Kingdom ICC)

The RYA is NOT authorized to issue a UK ICC to a national of UNECE member state which has accepted Resolution 40 AND resident in UNECE member state which has accepted Resolution 40; e.g. a RYA ICC is of no use to a Dutch sailor.

<https://www.rya.org.uk/knowledge-advice/boating-abroad/icc/Pages/icc-no.aspx>

Explanation in Dutch

<https://www.vaarbewijzen.nl/rya-vaarbewijs/>

## Theoretische Kustnavigatie (TKN) certificate

Some people may be familiar with another Dutch sailing certificate: = “Theoretische Kustnavigatie” (TKN). This is a Theoretical Coastal Navigation certificate in The Netherlands. It will provide you with the rights to apply for an ICC coastal waters.

TKN is especially meant for sailors intending to sail along the European coastal area's. Its goal is to get you equipped to navigate at sea. TKN provides you with a more in depth understanding and practical use of coastal navigation than you would get by passing the KVB2 exam.

Extra advantages:

1. International Certificate of Competence (ICC) coastal waters
2. Exemption for greater part of KVB1 and KVB2 exams

TKN exam is organized twice a year by the Dutch water sports society; “Watersportverbond”. More information (in Dutch) → <https://www.watersporters.nl/kustnavigatie/>

Exam pricing 2019: € 102,-

## TKN courses

It's highly recommended to participate in a TKN course as preparation for the TKN exam as exam questions can be quite peculiar at occasions. There are a couple of "Watersportverbond" certified training organizations that offer courses to help you prepare you for the TKN exam:

<https://www.watersporters.nl/media/9084/tkn-cursussen-en-docenten-25-1-2019.pdf>

Course material can be bought through the "Watersportverbond" webshop  
e.g. Handboek Kustnavigatie

<https://webshop.watersporters.nl/>

Course material can also be bought through the training organizations along with the course.

Several ASCN members went to the training organizations "Zeezeilers van Marken" in Harlingen or "Zeezeilschool Scheveningen" as a preparation for the TKN exam.

Zeezeilers van Marken TKN course

<https://www.zeezeilers.nl/cursusaanbod/theoriedagen/theoretische-kustnavigatie-tkn>

Zeezeilschool Scheveningen TKN course

[http://www.zeezeilschool.nl/theorie\\_tkn.html](http://www.zeezeilschool.nl/theorie_tkn.html)

## Klein Vaarbewijs II while in possess of TKN certificate

TKN provides you with the right to apply for an ICC coastal waters., As such, it is not the equivalent of the Vaarbewijs II certificate. Vaarbewijs II is the equivalent of ICC inland and coastal waters.

To bridge the gap, VAMEX, and per 2020 CBR, offers a strongly reduced exam called KVBB. KVBB stands for "Klein VaarBewijs Beperkt". It contains a part of the KVB1 exam content that TKN does not cover. More details on KVBB exam content to be found on the VAMEX website (in Dutch):

<https://www.vamex.nl/content//uploads/Toetsmatrijs-KVB-mei-20161.pdf>

To apply for the KVBB exam you first need to register your TKN certificate at VAMEX by sending VAMEX an email including a copy of your TKN certificate to [info@vamex.nl](mailto:info@vamex.nl). Procedure per 2020 at CBR is not announced yet. VAMEX will send you a reply email including the option to register for the KVBB exam.

More details to be found on the VAMEX website (in Dutch):

<https://www.vamex.nl/inschrijven/beperkte-examens>

Exam	KVB1
Duration in minutes	45
Amount of Questions	20
Maximum score in points	43
Minimum score to pass in points	30
Question type	Multiple choice

### VAMEX Exam pricing 2019

Klein Vaarbewijs Beperkt (KVBB) € 42,-