



Rhode Island State Pilotage Commission

235 Promenade Street, Providence RI 02908

RI Probationary Pilots Regulations 2017

The holder of an original probationary license is strictly prohibited from acting as a pilot of any vessels with the exception of the following vessels:

A. During the first six (6) months that a holder possesses said license, he/she shall be limited to vessels of no more than thirty five thousand (35,000grt.) gross tons and which further possess draft restrictions in compliance with the following:

1. During the first two (2) months that a holder possesses said license, the draft shall not exceed (30) feet; and
2. During the third and fourth months that a holder possesses said license, the draft shall not exceed thirty- two (32') feet; and
3. During the fifth and sixth months that a holder possesses said license, and until such time that the Commission modifies the type of vessel the holder is authorized to pilot, the draft of the vessel being piloted shall not exceed thirty-four (34') feet.

The State Pilotage Commission shall review the licensee's record of performance during his/her first six (6) months of service with a probationary license. On the basis of said review, the Commission may reduce the restrictions on the vessels for which the licensee is authorized to pilot to the following extent:

1. The Commission may permit the licensee to pilot any vessel of no more than thirty five thousand (35,000grt) gross tons regardless of draft on said vessel; and
2. The Commission may also permit the licensee to pilot vessels of more than thirty five thousand (35,000grt) gross tons which further possess draft restrictions in compliance with the following:
 - a. During the first two (2) months that a holder possesses said license, the draft shall not exceed thirty (30') feet; and
 - b. During the third and fourth months that a holder possesses said license, the draft shall not exceed thirty-two (32') feet; and
 - c. During the fifth and sixth months that a holder possesses said license, and until such time that the Commission modifies the type of vessel the holder is authorized to pilot, the draft of the vessel being piloted shall not exceed thirty-four (34') feet.

If the RI Pilot Commission is informed and petitioned by the RIPAB that a probationary pilot has been unable to accrue the required number of trips during the two month period due to some exceptional circumstance (i.e. lack of traffic, assignment conflicts, etc.), then the RI Pilot Commission may consider accepting trips completed under the supervision of a RI Full Branch Pilot, in lieu of those trips completed as Pilot of Record. Each of these trips shall be recorded on the RI Probationary Pilot Evaluation Form, and must be marked "Proficient" to be applied towards the required 10 trips.

After each two month period the Probationary Pilot may petition the Pilot Commission for a raise in draft or tonnage, whichever is applicable.