

For folks stepping up to a large yacht with insufficient prior experience, they may require you to demonstrate capabilities. The following is a typical listing of capabilities you should know. Of course, this is a great list for any yacht operator:

Engine room knowledge

- Raw water and thru hull valve location, operation, and maintenance
- Sea strainers location and maintenance
- Raw water pump location, operation, and maintenance
- Fresh water coolant and recovery location and maintenance
- Oil change, dip stick and fill
- Fuel filters, location, operation, maintenance (Racors and primaries)
- Changing all fuel filters
- Fuel manifold, location, operation and distribution of fuel
- Batteries, location and service
- Bilge pumps, location, operation, and service. Emergency operation
- Generator, location, operation, and maintenance
- Changing oil in generator, fresh water coolant location and service

Electrical panel

- Switching from shore power to generator
- Breakers, location, operation, and maintenance

Bilge Pump locations

- Location, operation and maintenance throughout the vessel

Safety equipment

- Life jackets, type, quantity needed, USCG regs and use
- Flare kit, location, USCG regs and use
- Fire extinguishers, location, USCG regs and use
- Halon or CO2 bottles, location and use
- EPIRB, location and use

Rules of the road

- Vessel lights and their meaning
- Fixed lights and their meaning
- Right of way
- Horn and whistle signals and their meaning
- Emergencies

Navigation

- Chart reading
- Plotting
- Lat / Lon
- Reading chart symbols and compass rose
- True north
- Piloting

Running at night

- Electronics
- GPS understanding and use – plotting course
- Loran understanding and use – plotting course
- Radar understanding and use – plotting course
- Plotter understanding and use
- Weatherfax understanding and use
- VHF radio understanding – channel selection and use
- SSB radio understanding – channel selection and use
- Mayday and emergency procedures

Boat Handling

- Getting underway
- Backing down
- Entering slip
- Wind problems
- Twin prop use
- Bow thruster use
- Heavy weather techniques
- Emergency procedures
- Man overboard procedure
- Anchoring
- Storm anchoring
- Securing vessel in slip or at dock
- Washdown and securing for extended absence