

POLAR TOURISM QUALIFICATION

Navigation/GPS Skills for Polar Ship & Land-based Operations



**POLAR
TOURISM**
Guides Association
guiding guiding

DEFINITIONS:

Scope: Outlines who the test is for.

Element: Outlines the overall **skill set** to be tested.

Range: The **specific skills** to be examined. An examination **may or may not** include all of the range items. It is at the discretion of the assessor if the assessee shows confidence and ease in other range items as to whether they examine them or not.

Prerequisites: Current 1st Aid certificate

RCC: Logged experience and endorsement that all criteria and elements are met. Any internationally recognised qualifications that include this component to the level of the Scope or higher. See RCC and **Cross-credit** matrices

Special Notes:

- i. Element 2 is required for ship based operations primarily using zodiacs and short (less than 2hr) walks on shore in defined areas with set boundaries.*
- ii. For land based operations involving longer overland treks and expeditions both Elements 2 and 3 are required. All candidates are encouraged to examine in all elements.*

SCOPE:

Nav/GPS operations is for field staff/guides working in any area where walks, longer treks, ski tours, skidoo excursions, landings or zodiac excursions are executed. It is a basic safety management competency that all field staff should have and that all companies should teach.

ELEMENTS & PERFORMANCE CRITERIA:

Element 1 – Demonstrate knowledge of navigation tools.

1.1 Maps and charts are interpreted for information.

Range - navigation tools may include but are not limited to: lat/long, distance units and measuring distance, water depths and small boat hazards, scale, datum information, contour lines, legend.

1.2 The use and limitations of navigation tools are explained.

Range: altimeter, map, chart, compass, GPS, mud-map, wrist-watch.

1.3 Electronic navigation aids and systems are described in terms of their use and function.

Range: GPS, electronic charts, depth sounder, AIS.

Element 2 – (Ship based operations) – Navigate in poor visibility.

Range: in a zodiac and on land with and without GPS.

2.1 Basic use of a handheld compass

Range: take a bearing, follow a bearing in poor visibility, communicate bearing to others to use.

2.2 Use a handheld GPS to problem solve and/or manage a location.

Range: check GPS settings for consistency with ship, create a waypoint, return to that waypoint in limited visibility, enter coordinates given to create a waypoint.

Element 3 – (Land based operations) – Navigate on a long hike (>2hours).

3.1 In a given location, a map is accurately orientated to north using a range of navigation tools.

Range: navigation tools may include but are not limited to – map, compass, surrounding natural features.

3.2 Accurate compass bearings are taken from a map and followed correctly with a compass.

3.3 Position is identified to within 25 metres using navigation tools.

Range: map, compass, ground-map, map-ground.

3.4 A predetermined point is reached following a route using at least four navigation techniques and navigating around hazards.

Range: navigation techniques may include but are not limited to – pacing, timing, aiming off, attack points, handrails, bypassing obstacles, following a compass bearing, using map to ground techniques, catching features, back bearings.

3.5 The amount of time required to travel from one given point to another in a variety of terrain is estimated and any variation to the actual time taken is justified.

3.6 The travel distance from one given point to another in a variety of terrain is estimated and the variation to the actual distance is justified.

DATE	REVIEWERS
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