

IAATO Online Assessment Bridge Requirements

Background

In an effort to better reflect the changes in the industry and the growth (pre-Covid) and what growth may occur in the future, IAATO has held many in-depth discussions revolving around how best to make sure any given team has the tools to best manage a safe and environmentally responsible travel program in Antarctica.

Specifically around the expedition bridge team, it has long been acknowledged that Captains and senior officers do much more than simply drive a vessel from point A to point B – The Captain and Expedition Leader work as a team to develop the best expedition program possible; the senior officers manoeuvre ships and small boats near wildlife; staff captains are responsible for small boat operations and shoreman; many senior officers drive small boats with guests during a variety of activities; and senior officers are responsible for training their crew about appropriate operations in Antarctica.

As a representative of an authorised/permitted Operator, Captains and senior officers also have the same duty of care towards safe and environmentally responsible travel in the Antarctic.

Given this close working relationship between the Bridge and expedition teams which spans across passenger operations and interactions, it is recognised that Captains and senior officers should not only be knowledgeable about ship operations, but all Antarctic operations as well as IAATO and Antarctic Treaty Guidelines.

Requirements

To ensure Captains and senior officers are aware of the most up to date information from both IAATO and the Antarctic Treaty, and making sure all expedition operations are safe and environmentally responsible, the following is now mandatory:

The below personnel as a minimum must take an IAATO Online Assessment each season.

- ALL Field Staff
- Captain
- Staff Captain (where applicable)
- Officers in charge of a navigational watch
- Environmental Officer (where applicable)
- Chief Engineer
- Lead Hotel Officer/Manager
- Helicopter pilot (where applicable)
- Submersible pilot (where applicable)
- Shoreside management engaged, or responsible with IAATO operations and or planning to complete the respective IAATO online assessment.

It is also recommended that any person operating zodiacs, tenders, other watercraft, or crew/staff which may interact wildlife ashore to complete the respective IAATO online assessment.

Note: It is mandatory to pass the IAATO Online Assessment to guide in South Georgia, and the certificate must be included as part of the South Georgia clearance procedures.