



Thames Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme

The Port of London Authority (PLA), Thames Skills Academy and Company of Watermen & Lightermen have introduced the first Port-wide Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme for all Masters in command of an Intra-port Commercial Vessel, whether newly qualified or with years of experience. The programme is open to other navigational crew too.

The prime objective is to improve safety on the Thames by everyone participating in the Thames CPD Programme to maintain and refresh their current skills and to learn new skills as the industry changes.

From 1st January 2024, all Masters must be participating in the Thames CPD Programme.

The Thames CPD Programme is regulated by the PLA through the [General Directions](#) (paragraph 34), administered by the Thames Skills Academy and supported by the Company of Watermen and Lightermen.

The Thames CPD Programme consists of Mandatory, Accredited and Skills & Experience training/activities. This allows you to achieve a minimum of 10 points every year and a minimum of 150 points over a 5-year cycle to complete the requirement to remain active on the River.

CPD refers to the process of tracking and documenting the skills, knowledge, experience and behaviours that you gain formally and informally as you go about your work beyond initial training. By participating in the Thames CPD Programme, you will be able to:

- Be more productive and effective by reflecting on your development and highlighting gaps in your knowledge and skills
- Cope positively with change by constantly updating your skillset and capabilities
- Plan and achieve your career goals by focusing on your training and development
- Maintain and boost Thames operators' collective profile and credibility as a profession

As a Master in command of an Intra-port Commercial Vessel, you must enrol by 1st January 2024. Your first 5-year CPD cycle will be until 31st December 2028 unless you are an LKE holder in which case your 5-year CPD cycle can be aligned with your LKE renewal.

Further information including the types of training activities you can select from and how to enrol and participate in the Programme can be found here: [Thames CPD - Working Together To Support The Thames Community](#)

Jonson Cox, Chair of the Port of London Authority, said:

“Safety is core to our remit, and that makes Thames CPD a high priority for the PLA. It is also essential for ensuring the river has a skilled workforce and that the tidal Thames is a place where more people want to build careers. It underpins our Thames Vision 2050 goals of a busier, cleaner and healthier river, enjoyed by all. The pace of change is accelerating, so a long-term approach to skills and training is essential.”



Katherine Riggs, Chief Executive of the Thames Skills Academy, said:

“The pace of change on the river is getting faster all the time, making it essential for mariners to keep skills up to date with all the latest developments through CPD to help keep the river safe and prosperous. The Thames CPD programme helps workers in charge of vessels to access training on all aspects of river operations and ensure their skills remain relevant, meeting employers’ needs.”

Sir David Wootton, Master of the Company of Watermen & Lightermen, said:

“Thames CPD provides a structure for training the Thames’ workforce, enhancing the high standards already in place and firmly underlining the value of the river as a place of work, for current and future generations.”