

		OPERATION PROCEDURES
40		CREW DISABLEMENT

- Crew should not assist in the operation of the lifeboat if they are not fit to do so. They should inform the LA on sign-off until they are fully recovered. Crew should not be tempted to take part in a mission when they do not meet the appropriate fitness requirements.
- Crew should reduce the risk of chronic and acute injury by observing manual handling training, sitting with appropriate posture, etc and the training provided to minimise the risks of sunburn, sunstroke, hypothermia, debilitating seasickness and fatigue.
- The crew must be able to function satisfactorily with the loss of capability of any one crew member. The most senior crew, together with colleagues must decide whether to continue their task or abort for the duration of a crew change. The impact of this action on a mission must be considered.
- In the event that the only signed-off helm aboard is disabled, a crew member can take the helm and charge of the lifeboat. The Co-ordinating authority and the base station should be informed and advice gained. It is for this reason that all crew although not trained as ‘helmsman’, are trained to take control of the boat (RYA PB 2 & internal training) and return the lifeboat to a safe haven.