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BSS CHECKS AMENDED TO ACCEPT NEW EUROPEAN GAS HOSE STANDARD

The BSS checks have changed with immediate effect as the BSS requirements now recognise two new classes of hose following the recent publication of a new European LPG hose standard.

Class 3, and where appropriate Class 2 hose, from BS EN 16436-1:2014, *Rubber and plastics hoses, tubing and assemblies for use with propane and butane and their mixture in the vapour phase - Part 1: Hoses and tubings*, are now included as compliance options within BSS the private craft checks 7.7.3R; 7.9.1R & 8.6.1R.

The new additions also apply to the 2002 BSS Standards for non-private craft, which sees the relevant checks, C7.10.4; C7.13.1 & C8.2.2f amended.

The BSS is urging boaters, fitters, chandlers and other suppliers, to check carefully before hose marked to BS EN 16436 is selected as there needs to be a clear understanding of which class of hose is suited to which part of the gas system.

The BS EN 16436 Class 2 hose is unsuitable for the high-pressure side of propane systems because of its potential to burst if the LPG cylinder is subject to extreme summer temperatures, such as the conditions that could be created when a boat is covered up.

Accordingly if hose marked to the new standard is installed on the high-pressure side of any LPG system, the BSS will only accept that showing as Class 3.

On the low-pressure (supply) side for propane, or butane, we can accept BS EN 16436 Class 2 or BS EN 16436 Class 3 hose.

The BSS wants to make it clear that it will continue to accept hose marked to BS 3212 Type 2 as long as the hose remains in good condition.

It believes that manufacturers will continue to mark their LPG hose products to BS 3212 Type 2 until the standard is withdrawn by British Standards Institute (BSI) and that may not happen for some time.

ENDS

Notes:

There are three changes to the third edition of BSS Examination Checking Procedures (ECPs) for Private Boats as follows:-

1. Check 7.7.3R – high-pressure hoses – BS EN 16436 Class 3 is added as an alternative and equivalent marking to BS 3212 Type 2 hose.
2. Check 7.9.1R – low-pressure hoses – BS EN 16436 Class 2 and BS EN 16436 Class 3 are added as alternatives and equivalent markings to BS 3212 Type 2 hose.
3. Check 8.6.1R – LPG catalytic heaters – BS EN 16436 Class 2 and BS EN 16436 Class 3 are added as an alternatives and equivalent to BS 3212 Type 2 hose that is part of the compliance requirements.

There are three changes to the first edition (2002) of ECPs for Non-Private Boats as follows:-

- a) Part 7 Check 7.10.4 high-pressure hoses; BS EN 16436 Class 3 is added as an alternative and equivalent marking to BS 3212 Type 2 hose.
- b) Part 7 Check 7.13.1 low-pressure hoses – BS EN 16436 Class 2 and BS EN 16436 Class 3 are added as alternatives and equivalent markings to BS 3212 Type 2 hose.
- c) Part 8 Check 8.2.2(f) bullet 4 Flexible tubing to BS EN 16436 Class 2; BS EN 16436 Class 3 or BS 3212 Type 2.

The Boat Safety Scheme, or BSS, is a public safety initiative owned by the Canal & River Trust and the Environment Agency. Its purpose is to help minimise the risk of boat fires, explosions, or pollution harming visitors to the inland waterways, the waterways' workforce and any other users.

The Boat Safety Scheme website www.boatsafetyscheme.org/examination has more information about the BSS examination and certification of boats.