



20 June 08

Ref: 08-004

BSS EXAMINER NEWS

Dear examiner,

There is a mixed bag this month and your views are requested for most items.

BSS course intended on 2002 Checks including Part 10 - interested?

Would you like to be offered examiner training/assessment to the 2002 Examination Checking Procedures (ECPs), either as a 'new' examiner not yet authorized to examine non-private boats or as a refresher for 'older' hands?

Before we move to develop this course I need to know the level of interest in attending and so if you are interested please contact the BSS Office in the usual way and before the end of July.

The course will take two days and will be open to all examiners. If enough people want to do it, we would hope to run it in Oct/Nov this year and while we will keep costs as low as possible, the final price will depend on how many participants there are. The course will focus on the 2002 ECP's and how they differ from the 2005 ECPs, namely:

- differences in checking methodologies including the focus on standards rather than the risk-approach adopted for the 2005 ECPs;
- all advisory checks to be applied to non-private craft, Parts 2 to 9;
- the additional requirements (a small number);
- Part 10 section specific to non-private craft;
- exemptions based upon date of manufacture;
- the different examination report documentation.

Please remember, this course must be considered as interim because when the MCA/BMF/ AINA hire boat code is implemented, there may be a need to re-train/assess interested examiners to the new requirements. It is envisaged that the Navigation Authorities will implement provisions from the hire boat code in 2011. If you are interested, please contact us.

Minor changes to the BSS Certificate

Watch out for minor format and text changes to the front and back of the BSS Certificate. The changes are intended to better clarify the purpose of the examination and certificate. In addition, on the reverse of the certificate our new office address is included and it is made clear that the boat measurements and other boat details are as supplied by the vessels owner manufacturer or supplier and have not been verified by the examiner. There are no changes to the way examiners complete the certificate.

Ordering BSS certificates, report pads, etc.

The BSS Office is being asked to do more for less. Taking stationery orders on the phone is now impacting on our administration capacity. So please, whenever possible order your BSS examination documentation by email using BSS.office@boatsafetyscheme.com, and make sure that you list all your needs in one request. Please also give us at least four working days notice to allow for order processing and delivery. We will send items by either first class post or courier depending which is less expensive. If you request a more expensive option, then we will have to pass the cost on to you e.g., asking for post where courier is cheaper.

Incidents involving LPG cartridge-type, portable gas stoves

We have received information from the HSE about a few serious gas explosions involving LPG cartridge-type portable gas stoves. Although none of the incidents were in boats, you may know something that can help us more accurately gauge what is happening on the waterways.

This image is provided for illustration purposes only



It is not linked to the incidents

The cause of the explosions is the overheating of the gas cartridge due to the pan supports being put in place upside down by the user.

You may well recognise this style of stove because it is in common use on boats and are sold at most shows and through most mail order chandlers.

From our records we have information about two flare-ups with such portable cookers when the seals seem to have failed to seat properly. One was on a hired day boat; the appliance was brought on to the boat by the hirers.

We know of one American brand of permanently installed stoves using such cartridges. We do not know if the pan support warning applies to these but we are making efforts to find out.

We are seeking more information from the HSE but in the meantime I would be interested to learn if you know of any incidents associated with the use of LPG cartridge-type portable gas stoves. If you do know of any incidents please contact the BSS Office in the normal way and provide bare details such as approximate date, location and incident details. For example, was the cause associated with the pan supports being put in place upside down or a leaking seal or valve, or did the appliance set light to adjacent flammable materials, or was the appliance or cartridge being stored outside of a gas locker; or was their some other cause?

Our message to boaters is not to recommend this type of appliance on boats, but if they use one onboard, use it outside the cabin and store it or the cartridge as per gas cylinders; in line with BSS check 7.1.2 which applies to any equipment that uses such gas cartridges.

The Green Blue – looking for volunteers



The Green Blue is the environmental awareness initiative from the British Marine Federation and the Royal Yachting Association set up to help the boating community learn more about the environment and minimise their impact on it.

One or two examiners are Green Blue volunteers already and they want more who are equally passionate about boating and have an enthusiasm for the natural environment.

You can help in many ways from doing presentations at yacht clubs and attending boat jumbles to representing The Green Blue at national Boat Shows. Full training is offered and should you be interested contact by email info@thegreenblue.org.uk or call 02380 604 100 and ask for The Green Blue. For more information visit: www.thegreenblue.org.uk

Signs and banners

We are offering a range of signs and banners to examiners. Please take a look at the attached annex and complete and return the order form, should you be interested in any of the products on offer.

Best regards,

Handwritten signature of G.A. Watts.

Graham Watts, **BSS Manager**