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May 2012

NR 003.12

BSS Accepts APRAGAZ Portable Fire Extinguisher Certification Mark

The Boat Safety Scheme (BSS) has added an APRAGAZ certification mark to the list of accepted certification marks that portable fire extinguishers must show to be compliant with the BSS requirements.

However it is easy to confuse the newly accepted mark with other APRAGAZ marks that do not indicate the extinguisher has met the standard.

So only this specific mark is acceptable and these are three key points to note in the image below:

- in the mark, the large letter 'B' lying underneath the diagonal APRAGAZ, indicates the involvement of BELAC, the Belgian national accreditation body;
- the reference to EN 3-7 is to Part 7 of EN 3 which covers performance requirements and test methods for portable fire extinguishers;
- suitable APRAGAZ certification is verified by the display of approval numbers in this format */ * ; e.g.11/260 (the numbers will vary with different models).



The BSS seeks, through its check 6.1.2 (2005 ECPs), evidence of accredited third-party certification.

Accredited third-party certification of portable fire extinguishers ensures a high level of confidence in the manufacturer's claims of meeting the EN 3 manufacturing standard and it is widely recognised in this safety-critical area that such certification offers the best guarantee that a fire extinguisher will work when its needed.

-ENDS-

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Notes for editors

The Boat Safety Scheme already accepts certification marks from the following organisations as indicating that the portable fire extinguisher meets the whole of EN3 manufacturing and production standard:

AFNOR (NF)

BAFE (British Approvals for Fire Equipment)

BSi Kitemark (British Standards Institution)

LPCB (Loss Prevention Certification Board)

Marine Equipment Directive ship's wheel

SGS (Société Générale De Surveillance)

These existing marks can be seen below



There is more information on page 4 of Chapter 6 of the BSS Essential Guide – Check Item number 6.1.2 (available on www.boatsafetyscheme.com)

The BSS is a public safety project owned jointly by British Waterways and the Environment Agency. At least 14 other navigation and harbour authorities have also adopted it. The navigation authorities' purposes for the Scheme are to help reduce the risks of fire, explosion and pollution on small craft. This is done by promoting fire safety and pollution avoidance advice to help boat owners keep themselves and their crews' safe as well as regular examination of fuel systems, gas systems, electrical systems and appliances.

The BSS examination and certificate BSS certificates have a life span of four years. Navigation authorities using the Scheme usually require a valid BSS certificate at the time of licensing, registration, toll renewal or similar. The certificate is issued to boat that is found to be compliant with all the BSS requirements relevant for that boat. These can be found in the BSS Essential Guide which can be freely downloaded or read on www.boatsafetyscheme.com. The compliance check is carried out by an authorized, independent practitioner known as a BSS examiner.