

Boat Safety Scheme  
First Floor North, Station House,  
500 Elder Gate,  
Milton Keynes, MK9 1BB  
Telephone 0333 202 1000



Examiner's Email: [BSS.office@boatsafetyscheme.org](mailto:BSS.office@boatsafetyscheme.org)  
Examiner's Website: <https://pro.boatsafetyscheme.com/>

13 July 2012

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## BSS EXAMINER NEWS

Dear Examiner,

### Proposed ECP changes are available to view

After a lot of help and guidance from-examiner, boat owner and marine trade representatives on the BSS support committees, the proposed changes to the 2005 BSS Examination Checking Procedures for privately owned and managed craft are now available to view on the BSS website.

Most of the changes are editorial in nature, tidying up terms and descriptions. These are coming in to help with the consistent application of the checks by BSS Examiners and so will help reduce risks and see safer boats.

Around 40% of the changes are not editorial and here are the headlines concerning these:

- 7 all-new checks, made up of; a mandatory check for portable fuel tanks in engine spaces, 5 new 230V a.c. advice checks and an advice check concerning unintended gaps on solid fuel stove appliances;
- 15 existing checks amended to introduce an enhanced technical requirement;
- 63 changes have been made to the existing checks that reduce or slightly change the technical impact;
- two checks, one about marine fuel filters and the other about 230V a.c. shore connections are being removed.

It is anticipated that the changes will take effect on 1 January 2013. Before that date, all examiners will need to have completed an online training exercise and attended a local seminar to introduce the changes. The dates and venues for the seminars will be made known in the next edition of BSS Examiner News.

Should you wish to comment on the proposals, please do so using the facility on the BSS website [www.boatsafetyscheme.org](http://www.boatsafetyscheme.org). Comments can be made at any time over the next six weeks.

### Examining new narrowboats subject to the Recreational Craft Directive

The examiner website includes recently amended guidance describing how brand new narrowboats can be examined even though they are still at the boat builder's yard and subject to the Recreational Craft Directive. This is good news for examiners as it could mean more certificates issued especially as it applies to partly-completed boats as well as fully complete ones.

The changes were made to accommodate the Canal Boatbuilders Association's new rule for member boat builders' that requires each new craft built to be sold with a BSS Certificate. The BSS Management Committee has agreed that the move should be accommodated as it aimed at providing 'customer comfort' and does not adversely or significantly affect navigation authority interests.

However, there are rules to apply, for example the boats must be presented for examination in at least the condition it is intended to leave the builder's yard in. There would be no point in examining the boat in its early stage of construction. Examiners will have to, prior to an examination being carried out, draw the owner's (or their representative's) attention to the fact that boats supported by valid RCD documentation can be licensed or registered with a navigation authority and also point to the limitations of the scope of the BSS examination, as detailed on the reverse of the certificate. Lastly, you as the BSS examiner will have to retain with your record of the examination evidence of the fact that you have drawn the owner's attention to the above points Find out more on the support site <https://pro.boatsafetyscheme.com/>.

## Insurance details on the web – audit results

We've recently carried out an audit of examiner insurance as recorded by examiners on Salesforce. The results were not good with around 24% of examiners having inaccurate details and four examiners were temporarily suspended.

Please ensure your Salesforce insurance details are maintained up to date. This is essential because we need certainty that any examiner's work is underwritten. From this point forward, after contacting examiners, we won't be sending out any more BSS Certificates where there is any doubt about their cover and their continued BSS Examiner authorisation may be at risk.

The next stage of the annual audit will require those examiners who are not with Michael Hall Associates Ltd, or Mercia Marine (Underwriting) Ltd, or Winter & Co (Marine) Ltd, to provide evidence that their insurance is valid and covers them for their BSS examining activity. If you receive an email please respond within two working weeks.

## BW's move to charity status – BSS update

The Canal & River Trust has launched and British Waterways no longer exists. The BSS has moved to Canal & River Trust but as previously reported we don't envisage any impact on the BSS or the role of BSS examiners and so examiners should plan for the future adopting a 'business as usual' approach.

There was a question as to whether the BSS could sit in the charity because we generate income from certificate sales, but the answer from BW's legal director is that it seems that we can.

As previously reported, canals currently run by BW in Scotland will continue in public sector management and will continue to participate in the Scheme.

Subject to funding and further review, the Government intends to transfer other rivers from the Environment Agency to the new Trust in 2015.

## New contact details (linked to move to Milton Keynes and charity status)

The BSS Office is due to move to the Canal & River Trust's new office in Milton Keynes from Wednesday 1 August. This office is already up and running and occupied by Canal & River Trust South East staff.

We are anticipating a smooth move with no disruption to services for examiners or other customers, but it would be helpful if you could place orders for certificates at least one week before the move date. Once we have moved, it is planned that there will be one member of BSS Office team in the Milton Keynes office most of the week to dispatch orders.

The move away from Watford STD phone code (01923) offered an opportunity to improve the phone service with us using a call answering centre and obtaining new phone number starting with '03'.

Calls to 03 numbers cost no more than a national rate call to an 01 or 02 number. They also count within any inclusive minutes in a phone contract in the same way as 01 and 02 calls. This applies to calls from any type of line including mobile, BT, other fixed line or payphone. Neither the BSS nor Canal & River Trust make any money from 03 numbers.

With immediate effect, our new telephone number is - **0333 202 1000**

Our website address and our email addresses have also changed to reflect the fact that the BSS is administered by what is now a charity:

BSS public website address is now – [www.boatsafetyscheme.org](http://www.boatsafetyscheme.org) (The address of the examiner support website won't change, for now). People keying the old dot com address will find themselves landing on the .org page.

These are the new BSS Office Team email addresses, (the old ones will continue to work for while):

<a href="mailto:bss.office@boatsafetyscheme.org">bss.office@boatsafetyscheme.org</a> 0333 202 1000	<a href="mailto:graham.w@boatsafetyscheme.org">graham.w@boatsafetyscheme.org</a> 07711 796417	<a href="mailto:dave.w@boatsafetyscheme.org">dave.w@boatsafetyscheme.org</a> 07766 774727
<a href="mailto:philip.r@boatsafetyscheme.org">philip.r@boatsafetyscheme.org</a> 07917 185539	<a href="mailto:robert.m@boatsafetyscheme.org">robert.m@boatsafetyscheme.org</a> 07710 175478	<a href="mailto:tracy.r@boatsafetyscheme.org">tracy.r@boatsafetyscheme.org</a> 0333 202 1000

From Wednesday 1 August, when we move to Milton Keynes, our postal address changes to: **Boat Safety Scheme, First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes, MK9 1BB**

There is a further effect of the move coming up which will also help our drive for efficiency; invoices for BSS Certificates and other services will soon be delivered by email. When they are, you may need to set your spam filters to ensure the messages arrive. We will also back up the email, with a copy on your Salesforce order page.

### **Salesforce 'V5' help needed**

Following on from the extremely helpful feedback of a small group of examiners in the first stage of development, we are now looking for a number of 'volunteer' Salesforce 'V5' testers to try out and report back on the next stage of new version of examination reporting which will be implemented later in the year. Testing will not take up much time, possibly only a couple of hours per month, over the next few months. If you are interested to help please contact either Rob [07710 175478] or Phil [07917 185539] direct or contact the office by email.

### **BSS reports gas incident to the HSE**

Reporting near miss gas incidents to the HSE may be a rare occurrence but it is something we'll do if the circumstances warrant it. I raised a RIDDOR report after a concerned Gas Safe registered BSS Examiner told me how his customer had called him in to find out why his gas hob wouldn't light. What the examiner found was that a spur to a heater had been crudely broken off during recent works by marina's gas fitter and that all the gas was disappearing through the open end of the pipe into the engine space! Apparently the fitter had blanked off a spur at the T-joint on the supply, before breaking off the redundant spur in the engine space – but... he had blanked off the wrong spur!

Under HSE legislation, an Environment Health Officer (EHO) local to the marina, took statements from the examiner, owner and service manager and would have prosecuted the fitter and possibly the marina management, if the owner had agreed to give evidence in Court.

The EHO told me that he considered the event a near death incident and thanked the BSS people involved for perhaps preventing others being exposed to risk. He said he considered the marina's gas fitter not to be competent because work was left unsafe and no tightness test was carried out at the end of the work. He said that the marina has stopped working on gas systems and now brings in a Gas Safe registered fitter to do gas work.

### **BSS news releases**

The examiner site has three short news releases issued recently, one advising don't carry spare petrol on board unless it is completely unavoidable. The advice from the BSS follows the death of two men in boat fire this April, where the early indications are that a petrol container stowed in the aft cockpit of the cabin cruiser may have added to the intensity of the fire and may have made it more difficult for the boaters to escape.

Another release encourages boaters to never use a barbecue on board a boat - take it ashore, enjoy it safely. The twin risks of fire and carbon monoxide are ever present and boaters should not ignore the threat.

The third one informs owners that the BSS is now accepting an APRAGAZ certification mark for portable fire extinguishers alongside the list of eight marks in the existing ECPs. This you were alerted to in ECP Change TN01.12.ECP01.

And watch this space, there's an announcement about a brand new Carbon Monoxide Safety on Boats leaflet coming soon

Best regards,



Graham Watts, **BSS Manager**