

Boat Safety Scheme
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7 October 2012

Ref: 12-005

BSS EXAMINER NEWS

Dear Examiner,

I know you have been anxious to hear about the revisions Examination Checking Procedures and the need to attend a seminar. What you may not have heard about is the E-learning course on the subject of the revisions.

Please also share the knowledge about the carbon monoxide leaflet and the new BSS address and contact details with your customers.

Private boat ECP changes to take effect from 1 January 2013

The changes to the 2005 BSS Examination Checking Procedures (ECPs) for privately owned and privately managed boats were signed-off by the BSS Management Committee on Tuesday of this week and will come into effect on Tuesday 1 January 2013.

As reported in the last edition of BSS Examiner News, around 60 per cent of the changes are either editorial or neutral in nature and involve the tidying up of terms and descriptions. The aim of making these changes is to help with the consistent application of the checks by BSS Examiners and so will help reduce risks and see safer boats.

The balance of the changes, around 40 per cent, can be summarised as follows:

- a new check for portable fuel tanks in engine spaces;
- five new advice checks concerning 230V a.c. systems;
- a new advice check for cracks and unintended gaps on solid fuel appliances;
- 15 existing checks amended to introduce a slightly enhanced technical requirement;
- two checks are being removed, one about marine fuel filters and the other about 230V a.c. shore connections, .

Following the open consultation, minor amendments to eight checks have been made to the version published on the BSS website in July. The minor amendments have also been published on the consultation section of the public website (a link appears in the online version of this Examiner News) to each comment, look for the text in red.

Examiners must continue to apply the current published checks up until Tuesday 1 January 2013. Between now and January, please make your BSS Examination customers aware of the changes, and that the changes happen in January. People can view the amended checks on the BSS website.

If there are any owners who feel they are disadvantaged by the timing of the changes, they may contact the BSS Office with details. Some owners may consider it worth waiting until after the beginning of January to have an examination.

In the lead up to January, all BSS examiners must complete an online E-Learning course prior to attending a local seminar. Both are intended to support the introduction of the amended ECPs.

Note that the BSS hire boat requirements are being reviewed separately and we hope that the results will largely be known by next March. When, or if, any changes will be made, is currently uncertain. Watch out for the topic in future editions of BSS Examiner News to learn more.

E-Learning course to introduce the changes to the ECPs

As mentioned on page 1, we have commissioned an E-Learning course intended to provide straightforward platform for you to learn about the key changes to the 2005 ECPs. You will receive an email containing a link to the course in the next two weeks.

You should have a month or so to undertake the E-course before you attend a local seminar to help underpin your learning.

Once you have been through the E-course you will be expected to go on to complete two assessment modules before coming to your seminar. These assessments are scored and results assessed and this will give us the best re-assurance that the changes will be applied consistently in the field. BSS Examiners who do not score high enough will have to re-take the assessments.

Please note that only the key changes are to be covered in the E-Learning course and at the planned seminars. The first assessment module will be on the key ECP changes.

It is your responsibility to go through the remaining editorial and neutral changes yourself using the documents to be placed on the BSS Examiner website and in the 'resources' section of the E-Learning course. You'll need to self-learn about 60 per cent of the proposed changed checks in this way.

The editorial and neutral changes are generally simple to read and take on-board. Once you are happy that you have been through them, you can take the second assessment module that covers them.

Note that the E-Learning course does not cover those checks, or individual checking actions that have not changed.

BSS Examiner Seminars – prepare to book yourself on one

All BSS Examiners must attend a local seminar this autumn/winter period covering two important subjects:

- a) the key ECP changes to be implemented from 1 January 2013. The opportunity is intended to underpin the E-Learning to help ensure you are ready to apply the changes from January.
- b) paving the way to the move to Salesforce version V5 on 1 April 2013 by laying out the improvements from the existing reporting system. The V5 improvements will make it easier for examiners to record examinations on Salesforce and will have implications and introduce more options for examiners concerning the way records of examinations are produced and kept. For boat owners, the BSS certificate, as we know it now, will change.

The seminars are provided at no charge to examiners however examiners must attend at their own expense for time and travel. The seminars will be run by members of the BSS Office team and will commence at 10:00 and finish around 15:30. Lunch and tea/coffee/water is provided.

The locations for the seminars have been arranged in order that most examiners are travelling less than 50 miles, but I apologise if you are one of the few that has a longer journey. Again, the majority of examiners will have a reasonable choice between two venues.

Applications for places on one of the BSS Examiner seminars can only be made online, so look out for the email with the link to the relevant web page. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Once your application has been submitted you will receive an email confirming receipt, however we do reserve the right to offer alternative arrangements if the venue reaches capacity. For examiners based in Scotland the arrangements are already in place and so no application is necessary.

(venues list continues on next page)

In the meantime, here is the list of venues and dates, so add your chosen venue/date to your diary now.

The Moorings West Haddon Road Crick Northampton NN6 7SQ	Tuesday 20 November
Stafford Boat Club Ltd Maplewood Wildwood Stafford Staffordshire ST17 4SG	Wednesday 21 November
Bridgewater Motor Boat Club Victoria Dockyard Victoria Road Runcorn WA7 5SS	Thursday 22 November
Strawberry Island Boat Club Milethorn Lane Doncaster South Yorkshire DN1 2SU	Friday 23 November
British Marine Federation Marine House, Thorpe Lea Road, Egham, Surrey TW20 8BF	Monday 26 November
Shillingford Bridge Hotel Shillingford Hill, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8LZ	Tuesday 27 November
The Maltings, Ship Lane, Ely CB7 4BB	Wednesday 28 November
Acle War Memorial Rec. Centre & Social Club Bridewell Lane Acle Norfolk NR13 3RA	Thursday 29 November
Huntingtower Hotel Crieff Road, Perth, Perthshire PH1 3JT	Tuesday 4 December
Gloucester Waterways Museum, Llanthony Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester GL1 2EH	Thursday 6 December
Ditton Community Centre, Kilbarn Road, Ditton, Aylesford, Kent ME20 6AH	Friday 7 December

Carbon Monoxide Safety on Boats leaflet

There has been a good take up for the Carbon Monoxide on Boats leaflet with hundreds being distributed to BSS Examiners and thousands to Fire and Rescue Services. This item can now be ordered via Salesforce along with other examination documentation.

The BSS is pleased to promote the joint BSS/CoGDDEM leaflet which include clear and enhanced information for boat owners about CO detectors and sobering and clear information on the medical effects and the signs of CO poisoning as agreed with the Health Protection Agency.

In addition the leaflet provides information that boat owners also need to know, including:

- understanding the nature of the carbon monoxide risk;
- how CO works as a poison;
- how to recognise the signs of CO poisoning and act quickly;
- how to recognise warning signs on boats and how to prevent CO poisoning;
- as a boat owner, a list of things never to do;
- how CO alarms can save boaters lives, what type to use, where to fit them and how to ensure they continue to work effectively;
- onward references to more detailed information for boat owners, including about using solid fuel stoves and portable generators.

If there was any doubt about the need for the leaflet, in the last 16 years, 25 CO deaths have been reported on boats in the UK. Of these, 18 fatalities have occurred on inland waters. Of the 25 deaths, 11 appear to have been caused by emissions from portable engines (including one diesel generator), 6 from LPG appliances, 5 from solid fuel stoves, 1 blown diesel heater and 2 are cause not-known.

Watch out for a news release to support the wider availability of the leaflet shortly.

BSS news releases

The examiner site has four short news releases issued recently, one promoting the new BSS address at Boat Safety Scheme, First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes, MK9 1BB, the new phone number **0333 202 1000** and the new web address www.boatsafetyscheme.org. It's very important that this new contact information becomes well known, so please check that your public information on your business cards or websites that refers to BSS contact details carries the up to date information.

The second news release invited public comments on the proposals for changing the 2005 ECPs for privately owned and privately managed boats.

The third repeated BSS warnings about the casual use and storage of portable gas stoves and other appliances on board boats and the last one reminded owners of boats with weed hatches to make a routine of checking the security of weed hatch covers before setting off, if they want to avoid that sinking feeling.

To read these news releases in full go to the black Kiosk section of the examiner website and click on the 'BSS News Releases' button .

Best regards,



Graham Watts, **BSS Manager**