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BSS EXAMINER NEWS

Dear Examiner,

This edition of BSS Examiner News has various pointers - some to new information and some to reminders because some essential stuff has been forgotten. We also provide updates on some important initiatives and the Port of London Authority has something it wants to share.

V5 of Salesforce inputs – one year on

A review has been carried out of Salesforce V5 from the perspectives of the examiner, the boat owner, the navigation authority and the BSS Office. It has considered everything from the various screen inputs to the Conga merge report documents and more.

We would like to thank BSS Advisory Committee members for their contribution to the working group that undertook the review.

We would also like to thank all the examiners who submitted and continue to submit improvement suggestions. As you can guess, some are adopted fully, some in part, others are not feasible and some are not being accepted by the working group. But all were looked at and given thoughtful consideration.

Two changes have already been made:

- The 'boat name' is now incorporated in the 'Saved File Name' of an Appliance Record, this will help Examiners find the correct Appliance Record on their computers.
- The same order of the 'Fuels/Appliances' as printed on the Examiners' check sheets now appears on the Salesforce website to help avoid input errors.

The relevant How-to-Guides will be amended in the coming weeks, once some other improvements have been announced and given coverage in later newsletters.

Beko alert for the boating community

I'm forwarding a link to information placed on our BSS website this week at the request of Beko PLC.

The BSS is supporting Beko PLC in its on-going campaign to find and fix dangerous older models of Beko, Flavel and Leisure gas cookers that can produce potentially fatal levels of carbon monoxide, if used incorrectly with the grill door closed.

The BSS Examiner website also has this information which is being provided to BSS Examiners in case boat owner raises the issue in conversation; there is no expectation that BSS Examiners will check appliances for the models concerned in the recall notice or record model numbers of appliances in general.

Visit the Beko PLC recall information [here](#).

ISO 7840 updated to ensure compatibility with bio-fuels

The latest version of the marine fuel hose standard BS EN ISO 7840:2013 Small craft – Fire-resistant fuel hoses, came into effect recently. The updates mainly concern hose test procedures to help ensure long-term resistance to petrol fuel mixed with ethanol as well to diesel fuel mixed with Fatty Acid Methyl Esters (FAME).

Hoses marked ISO 7840 will continue to be acceptable no matter which version of the hose standard has been applied. Examiners should remain vigilant to identify signs of fuel leaks, damage or deterioration at checks 2.2.3, 2.3.5 and 2. 10.4.

Bulk delivery of BSS examination materials

The move to bulk delivery of BSS examination materials is nearing completion and will mean further efficiency savings that will allow us to keep down our costs to you. The amount of materials you receive is based upon your usage history however we recognise that amounts sent in future years may have to be tweaked.

You will be receiving materials free of charge, however if you damage or lose items and need to replace them then the BSS Office reserves the right to charge you postage for replacement or extra deliveries, depending upon the individual circumstances.

Forward dating certificates – follow the policy guidance before issuing any certificates

It is now apparent that some examiners are unclear about the policy for forward dating certificates. In some instances, this has caused confusion and upset for boat owners as well as extra work for the navigation authorities and BSS Office.

Where a boat is licensed or registered against an existing, passed BSS examination, an Annex IIIa, or Annex XV Recreational Craft Directive declaration, and there is 2 months or less left until a new BSS is needed, then the expiry date for the new successful BSS examination can be extended beyond four years.

This means for example, in where a current certificate expires on 15/08/2013, and the date of a successful examination is 10/07/2013, you can input the new BSS expiry date as 14/08/2017 and not 09/07/2017. Please check your full understanding on the support site in the red **examination guidance section**.

And if you are unsure about where the expiry date is changed - read the relevant **How to Guide** on the Pro-site. If anything is unclear please ask for further clarification before issuing any further certificates.

Recording non-private boat failure points– a reminder

We have found two problems in examiner's reporting practices for non-private boats, e.g. hire boats.

Firstly some examinations were marked as non-private, when further investigation showed that the examinations were clearly on private craft and were undertaken using the 2013 ECPs for private boats.

Secondly, relevant to those BSS Examiners qualified to undertake BSS examinations against the 2002 ECPs, it is essential that the failure points to use concerning non-private boats are the 2002 ECPs e.g. C10.3.1 Hull Watertight to 250mm above waterline or C2.13.2 Fuel pipes fixed clear of exhaust.

We have prefaced the 2002 checks on Salesforce with the letter 'C' so as to differentiate it from a similar but potentially different 2013 ECP reference. If it helps you remember, think of C as standing for commercial, charter, community, charity, club etc. The details are in the How to Guide downloadable from the support site, the link is provided **here**.

Accurate reporting of faults on non-private boats is essential if we are, for example, to be able to identify risk trends affecting hirers (see below), and so we urge all examiners to follow the guidance, it will help us all. If you remain in anyway unsure how to record non-private examinations please call or email.

Hirer Safety Review – update

The navigation authorities are currently considering their reaction to the publication of initial recommendations following the risk-review of boat hirer safety, see the link below to view this report.

At this stage it is looking likely that most BSS hire boat checks will align with the BSS requirements for privately owned and privately managed boats 2013. However, it is also likely that an annex will incorporate some of the existing hire boat checks as well as there being a few new BSS checks for hire boats to be introduced.

The potential implication for examiners is that anyone wishing to continue to examine hire boats should expect to complete a one or two day course in spring 2016 – the date is not yet set, but we hope to have one by the Autumn.

There is more information at this link - <http://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/about-us/hirer-safety-review-2013/>

Examiner website single sign on - update

The single 'sign-on' for the Pro-site and Salesforce site is not far away so watch out for news. It will be more convenient to move between the two sites and we will eventually be able to embed instructional videos and run our E-learning courses. There will be a need to go through the password set up process again. We will provide more detail at the time.

Electrical knowledge and understanding course for those examiners yet to attend one

We will shortly announce the dates for the next batch of Electrical Knowledge & Understanding courses in the Winter 2014. Attending one of these one-day local events as well as completing the prior E-learning section will be mandatory for any examiner who has not yet done it.

The Port of London Authority vacancy

The PLA asked if we would publicise a forthcoming vacancy for a surveyor. It is shortly due to advertise the vacancy of Deputy Marine Surveyor working within the Vessel Licensing Department inspecting and licensing commercially operated freight and small passenger boats on the tidal Thames. Anyone interested should not contact us, but keep an eye out for the advert at <http://www.pla.co.uk/HR/Recruitment/Vacancies>.

Best regards,



Graham Watts, **BSS Manager**