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BSS EXAMINER NEWS

Dear Examiner,

This edition of BSS Examiner News focuses on how you help improve our boat record database, plus we signpost electrical training for those examiners yet to attend the electrical knowledge and understanding course.

Salesforce reporting and recording – please follow the rules

An issue has come to light and it is now proving to be serious - some BSS Examiners are not recording examinations correctly and accordingly maybe putting their customers at risk of potential harm and themselves at risk of losing their BSS authorisation and possibly even potential law suits. Two areas are of particular concern.

Where the boat has failed an 'advice' item check but passes all the mandatory checks, the outcome must be reported to customers on the examination report (BSSER) with the result "Yes, but some advice checks did not pass", and the 'advice' check fail points listed. This knowledge must be available for subsequent owners of the boat you examined.

Ensure the detail is included that is necessary to help keep the next owner safe e.g. 'There is a 12345 mm2 shortfall of low level ventilation', or 'Saloon cabin stove glass missing'. The location and brief description of the fault should be included.

It is also clear that a minority of examiners are not recording all 'not passed' items on the Salesforce database despite BSS faults being identified.

I've reported before that the BSS committees place reliance the data recorded by examiners and so please ensure your recording is both complete and accurate. If isn't accurate it is likely that future BSS safety initiatives may not be prioritised correctly.

The field assessments are also showing that some examiners are not ticking the WN box when they should, please do this for your own protection as well as to aid our reports to committees.

How to Guide No 2 | Recording V5 Examinations and Issuing Certificates provides more guidance for all the above. It can be found on the examiner website in the 'You and the BSS' section.

It's not too late to add your comments to any reports where they are missing. DO NOT under any circumstance create an additional or replacement, 'Yes, but ...' report – you will be charged and it will create chaos in the boat registration departments. Where you have a pre-existing 'No' or 'Yes, but...' report, simply add Examination Comments to that report. Be prepared to be contacted by Phil if you have reports on file not meeting these expectations.

For those examiners feeling they need support with examination reporting and recording, please contact Phil or Rob at the BSS Office.

Please don't give out wrong information about annual gas safety checks

A Navigation Authority staff member contacted me recently to tell me that a BSS Examiner had informed a customer who has a boat let out to a tenant, that 'BSS certification will do for the first year for a landlord gas safety check.

This is quite simply wrong information from the examiner and in fact the requirement for annual gas safety checks under the Gas Safety (Installation & Use) Regulations (GSIUR) is entirely separate to the requirement for BSS certification.

Having a BSS certification does not negate the need to comply with GSIUR and the GSIUR checks are, in general, looking for safe operation of LPG appliances and flues to protect tenants and BSS is focused on safe installation of the same to protect more than just the tenants.

If you are also a competent gas engineer and offer gas safety checks as a part of your business, keep the contracts separate and please be crystal clear about this to your customer.

Carbon monoxide poisoning on boats - intense media and customer interest anticipated

Building on the article with the same title in the last issue, we anticipate that the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) will publish its findings within the next few weeks, as to the cause of the tragedy and making recommendations aimed at preventing a recurrence.

You can do your bit to support CO boat safety by pushing your customers to the 'Stay Safe' web pages on the BSS website because this information is intended to influence boater behaviour to prevent CO poisoning incidents and behavioural factors are prevalent in most boat-related CO fatalities.

Also make sure that you have supplies of the BSS CO Safety on Boats booklet and familiarise yourself once again with all the CO safety messages so we can provide a consistent safety message to our customers – these can be ordered via Salesforce. And don't forget that where any BSS faults relate to leaking flue gases from appliances, or a significant shortfall in the fixed ventilation provision (at checks 8.9.1 & 8.10.1 – 5); Appendix A of the Examination Checking Procedures is invoked and the examiner must include with the BSS Warning Notice a copy of the BSS booklet. In the event no booklet is left for any reason, the examiner must arrange for one to be sent to the owner by the BSS Office.

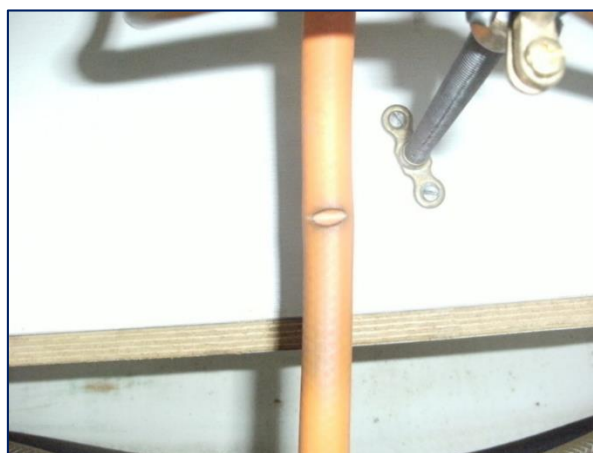


The importance of LPG hoses being 'accessible for inspection'...

At BSS check 7.9.1, all low pressure LPG hoses must be accessible for inspection along their entire length and that means they must be made available for inspection and capable of being seen and reached.

Here's the examiner's take on the photos he provided below... *potentially dramatic near miss with an unbraided orange hose resting tightly against the top rear metal edge of the oven housing. Installation less than four years old. Had the oven been used more than just occasionally in that time, it would in my view had failed and the leakage inevitably ignited by the oven burner. Probably a small bang and a big fire.*

Learning point – it just goes to show how important it is that all examiners follow the checks to the letter.



High pressure regulators –do you know of any regulator failures?

We are still interested in any known incidents concerning high pressure LPG regulators. This follows two incidents in the summer of 2013 where high pressure gas escapes were ignited leading to explosions. Luckily there were no significant injuries. If you have any information about failures of high pressure regulators leading to high pressure gas entering the low pressure side, please contact me with any details.

Electrical knowledge and understanding course for those examiners yet to attend one (*and an additional note for those who already have*)

Albeit delayed, we will soon announce the dates for the next batch of Electrical Knowledge & Understanding courses from Spring 2015. Attending one of these events as well as completing the prior E-learning section will be mandatory for any examiner who has not yet done it.

For those examiners who took part in the last series of courses there are two points; you are welcome to attend voluntarily if you wish to refresh your knowledge.

And secondly for those previous attendees who cannot or don't wish to take up this offer, please note, it is also likely that potentially you may have to attend a separate seminar to learn new information not included on the previous electrical training course.

Please watch out for further information in the next newsletter.

BSS Marketplace - late Christmas present list....

Don't forget the selection of BSS products the new BSS apparel provider, Clyde Marine.

Go to www.clydemarineuniforms.com/bse-1.html for full details and to make your order. Clyde Marine is providing full customer support on 0141 427 6655 or by the contact form on its website.

BSS Office Christmas Shut-down

Although all staff will be on leave during the Christmas and New Year break (25 December – 4 January inclusive) technical support will likely be available to you should you need it. Please use this email address - bss.office@boatsafetyscheme.org and include your contact phone number and subject matter and your email will be picked up and forwarded to the most appropriate BSS team member who will call you back. Concerning urgent messages please try team mobiles, numbers are on the Examiner Support site.

If you have a need to order any items via Salesforce, please do this very soon as we will be unable to dispatch any items after 23 December. The next post out will be week commencing Monday 5 January.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Best regards,



Graham Watts, **BSS Manager**