

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: [www.boatsafetyscheme.org/professionals](http://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/professionals)



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## BSS EXAMINER NEWS SEPTEMBER 2015

Dear Examiner,

This edition of BSS Examiner News concentrates on the public consultation on changes to the BSS hire boat requirements and the upcoming examiner electrical training and assessment course.

### Consultation on proposed changes to the BSS hire boat requirements

The public consultation on proposed changes to the BSS requirements for hire boats began on 4 September 2015 and ends on 13 November 2015 and interested BSS Examiners are welcome to provide comments.

More information can be viewed [here](#) about the risk review supporting the proposals, involving hire operators, navigation authorities, trade representatives and boating representatives, including boat hirers.

It is proposed to introduce the revised set of BSS requirements for hire boats from April 2016. There are two elements to the proposals.

- a) the proposed introduction of six new BSS hire boat requirements.
- b) the BSS private boats requirements should be adopted as the basis of BSS requirements for hire boats. This proposal includes:
  - o the formal adoption for hire boats of the 23 additional or wider scope BSS private boat requirements introduced in recent years.
  - o the introduction of five clarifications or improvements concerning the existing BSS hire boat standards.

All relevant BSS requirements are mandatory for hire boats and this factor represents the key difference in looking at the requirements for hire craft and the mix of requirements and advice checks for privately-owned and privately managed boats.

The detail of the proposed BSS hire boat requirements changes can be viewed [here](#).

If you are interested to do so, it is open to you to respond to the proposals and the preferred method is to complete the online comments facility [here](#). For those examiners who have hire operator customers, please promote the existence of the public consultation and say to visit the BSS website to find out more.

The navigation authorities will separately be consulting on the introduction of the revised Hire Boat Code published jointly by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency / Association of Inland Navigation Authorities / British Marine, as a licensing condition, including the proposal to introduce stability testing of hire boats.

Subject to the implementation date being confirmed as next April; for those examiners wishing to examine hire boats after that date there will be a one day training event and an online assessment during Feb/March 2016. Details to follow in a future newsletter.

## Electrical knowledge and understanding course update

As covered in the last newsletter all BSS Examiners are to undertake an electrical knowledge and understanding E-learning course and attend a one-day training and assessment event.

Examiners who supported the pilot course in February don't need to attend and neither do the March and May 2015 examiner recruits, they have already undertaken the training and assessment.

The one-day training event will build on the E-learning course and includes a practical and rig-based assessment to validate examiners' understanding of the Safe Isolation Procedure. In the next week or so you will receive an email link to the E-learning facility and you must complete this course and pass the assessments before attending the regional course.

The day course consists of training in the morning session and assessments in the afternoon and is provided at cost to examiners for £90. Examiners must attend at their own expense for time and travel. The seminars will commence at 10:00 and finish between 15:30 – 17:00. Lunch and tea/coffee/water will be provided.

Course numbers are restricted to 18 per course to allow the assessments to take place in the afternoon, two examiners at a time. Also in the afternoon and whilst the assessments are going on, I will conduct a seminar event aimed at imparting important information about planned changes to the role of BSS examiners as well as one or two technical or IT matters.

The locations for the courses 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 events/venues.

Applications for places on one of the BSS Examiner courses 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 to be put place separately and so no application will be necessary.

For those newly qualified examiners or those on the pilot course who would like to attend the course or specifically the afternoon seminar, then please contact me directly rather than using the online facility described above.

So in summary look out for an email in the next in the next week or so inviting you to carry out the E-learning part of the course and around the same time look out for the invitation to book yourself on to the attended part of the course. In the meantime, here is the list of venues and dates, so add your favoured option for venue/date to your diary now.

E. Midlands	The Moorings West Haddon Road Crick Northampton NN6 7SQ	Monday 2 & Tuesday 3 November
N. Midlands	Stafford Boat Club Ltd Maplewood Wildwood Stafford ST17 4SG	Wednesday 4 & Thursday 5 November
North West	Bridgewater Motor Boat Club Victoria Dockyard Victoria Road Runcorn WA7 5SS	Monday 9 & Tuesday 10 November
North East	Strawberry Island Boat Club Milethorn Lane Doncaster DN1 2SU	Wednesday 11 November

South East	British Marine Marine House, Thorpe Lea Road, Egham, TW20 8BF	Monday 16 November
Central Midlands	Shillingford Bridge Hotel Shillingford Hill, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8LZ	Wednesday 18 November
W. Anglia	The Maltings, Ship Lane, Ely CB7 4BB	Thursday 19 November
E. Anglia	North Walsham Rugby Football Club The Clubhouse, Norwich Rd, Scottow, Norfolk, NR10 5BU	Friday 20 November
S. West	Fromebridge Mill Fromebridge Lane Whitminster Nr Gloucester GL2 7PD	Wednesday 2 & Thursday 3 December
South East	Ditton Community Centre, Kilbarn Road, Ditton, Nr Aylesford, Kent ME20 6AH	Monday 7 December

### **Introducing a new member of the team – Peter Tedder**

As some of you may know Phil Rickett, BSS Quality and Technical Manager is now working a reduced week as he edges towards retirement over the next couple of years. So when wanting to contact Phil, please check with our answering service if he is at work on the day you are calling.

Correspondingly Peter Tedder will be joining us in late November, who will be working with and supporting examiners initially, before gradually taking on all of Phil's responsibilities. Peter is a Fellow of the Institute of Marine Engineering Science & Technology (IMarEST), and has proven extensive worldwide business management and development experience as well as a wealth of engineering experience.

### **BSS petrol safety information enhanced**

This summer there have been five serious incidents (four on inland waters) related to the use of petrol that saw twelve people needing treatment for injuries and ten boats damaged or destroyed.

While investigations continue, we know enough about the reported causes to persuade us that a petrol safety campaign promoting messages about staying safe using petrol was necessary.

We have published several pages of petrol safety advice at [www.boatsafetyscheme.org/petrolsafety](http://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/petrolsafety) and issued a news release and engaged in a social media campaign using hashtag #BoatPetrolSafety

We have enhanced our web coverage encouraging anyone using petrol on boats to have a discipline and routine and to appreciate the nature of petrol vapour especially in the context of the bucket-like quality of a boat cabin and hull. We hope that you are able to join in and promote the messages.

The information covers all relevant aspects including; boats with inboard petrol engines, journey preparation and setting off, refuelling, petrol outboards and portable engines and spare petrol and its stowage. You might like to print off our list of ten crucial petrol safety tips that will help boat owners and crew safe, and leaving a copy with relevant customers. [Here](#) is a link to the list of ten tips.

### **Portable LPG generators – what LPG supply arrangements are you coming across?**

We are seeking information to help us decide if a risk-review at BSS Technical Committee is warranted concerning the LPG supply arrangements to portable generators converted for use with LPG.

We particularly want to know if you have come across a portable LPG generator intended to run on the bank and supplied from the boat's LPG system using a long length of LPG hose.

We are also keen to learn of any portable LPG generators supplied from cylinders, where both the generator and cylinder are intended to be run on the bank and where once again the hose length exceeds one metre.

On an associated generator subject, any boat on which you encounter a generator that is intended to be portable (LPG, petrol or diesel) and that you find fixed in position in an enclosed cockpit area or engine space should be treated as an 'immediately hazardous boat'. This should be considered an additional risk to those covered by Appendix B of the BSS Examination Checking Procedures. The basis of this position is that we not aware of any portable generator manufacturer that approves their products to be fixed in place or more specifically for their products to be modified with exhaust extensions and as such there must be considered to be a significant risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

### **Accuracy of BSS database (Salesforce) is now even more critical**

The Canal & River Trust now has a live feed from the BSS database directly to its online boat licensing facility. Errors in boat names, index numbers and expiry dates are interfering with the smooth operation of the facility. Please take care to input accurate information including inputting the boat identity information to help confirm the boat as being the one seeking to be licensed against your certification report.

### **Gas Safe Registered or not?**

Have you ticked the box Gas Safe Registered on the current details tab? If yes, you must be accredited for LPG on Boats. You must also supply your registration number accurately, this is public information and anyone must be able to check your registration on the Gas Safe Register site using that number. If you let your registration drop, it is critical to untick that box and remove those details from the public website as misusing the logo and representing yourself as registered can lead to a criminal investigation, which according to the [Gas Safe Register](#), has the potential to lead to fines and/or imprisonment.

### **Your photo is now back on the BSS public website**

Now that a technical fix to the problem has been successful, your photo now appears to those customers using the BSS 'find an examiner' facility on the BSS public facing website and helps them verify your identity.

Please take time to check that the image is present and clear. Find your entry by searching the 'find an examiner' facility [here](#).

Best regards,

