

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

Examiner's Website: www.boatsafetyscheme.org/professionals



10 December 2016

Ref: 16-005

BSS EXAMINER NEWS

Dear Examiner,

In this edition of BSS Examiner News: - Do you want to examine hire craft next year – if you have not already done so, please act now to express your interest to attend training. New Eberspächer arrangements. Introducing a new standard in LPG cooker connection hose assemblies to BS EN 14800. We also publish a special briefing on Freeman boats. There are two 'self-protection' items for examiners, one on the disease, leptospirosis. The other reinforces the implications of the UK gas legislation especially for non-Gas Safe registered examiners regarding gas tightness testing. BSS stalwart Brian Hayes retires. There's still time for Christmas shopping. And we set out the BSS office Xmas arrangements.

Examiner training to the BSS hire boat requirements – Five days to express your interest

In the last edition of BSS Examiner News, we invited all examiners to express their interest (or not) in attending training and assessment to enable them to examine hire craft from April 2017. Anyone who has not undertaken the latest course will not be authorised to examine hire boats.

The courses are planned to take place in February/March 2017. The course is open to all examiners except those newly qualified who are yet to participate in a BSS Field Assessment.

We need to know the numbers so we can book the venue(s) and then publicise the course dates. So thanks to those who have let us know one way or the other. If you have not yet declared, please go to this Survey Monkey web-form <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YT5QQPV> and confirm your choice. It's easy and takes seconds.

Note that other classes of non-private boats such as tenanted boats, hotel boats and workboats will continue to be assessed using the 2002 BSS Standards and that the hire boat requirements training will not qualify examiners to examine these classes. Only those examiners who have undertaken training and assessment to the 2002 requirements will be qualified to examine these classes of boat.

Product update: Eberspächer move to all hose systems

Eberspächer has stopped supplying inland waterway boat installation kits with copper fuel pipe and now for both inland and sea water boats it supplies an ISO 7840 hose kit.

On the face of it the arrangements meet BSS compliance and so there is no impact on the BSS Examination Checking Procedures beyond carrying out your normal checks. We have produced a technical article, so that as you find all-hose supplies, in growing numbers over time, [you'll be fully briefed](#).



New Standard - Cooker hose assemblies to BS EN 14800 and BSS checks 7.9.1R & C7.12.1/C7.13.1



Pre-made cooker hose assemblies to BS 669 are acceptable to connect free-standing domestic style cookers to the LPG supply and now these products are being replaced by hose assemblies to BS EN 14800.

Either of the hose assembly types found connected to a free-standing LPG cooker can be considered as meeting check item 7.9.1R. There is more information including about why the change has taken place, how to identify the hose assemblies and our intentions to update check 7.9.1 in the Technical Bulletin [here](#). Please familiarise yourself with all the details.

Petrol Freemans, a background article; essential reading if you are examining these boats

There are thousands of Freeman cruisers on rivers, canals and estuaries and remain as popular as when they were built in the 1960's and 70's.

We have produced [a helpful background article](#) we want every examiner to read if they are examining petrol-engine Freeman boats.

The article covers LPG fridges, fuel tanks and two linked subjects of replacement fuel-filler hose and deck filling point spigots.



GSIUR - LPG tightness testing on residential boats, houseboats, hire boats and business boats

Information received from boat owners and examiners has prompted another reminder for non-Gas Safe registered examiners about your need to keep on the right side of the law. Boats used for residential purposes as well as hire boats and floating businesses (such as cafés or shops) all fall within scope of the Gas Safety [Installation and Use] Regulations (GSIUR) and as such any LPG 'work' must be undertaken by Gas Safe registered installers.

As the definition of 'work' covers the removal and replacement of a screw nipple on a gas tightness test point, so this can include carrying out BSS tightness test in Part 7 of the checking procedures.

Make no mistake, people who are prosecuted and found guilty of contravening the GSIUR, can face fines of up to £5000 for each offence or even jail terms for very serious breaches. The HSE and local authorities are active in pursuing people not complying with the regulations, especially where hazards have arisen.

Any examiner who has been found by the HSE not to have complied with GSIUR and thus also failed to follow the BSS Manager's guidance in this matter may also have their future authorisation as an Examiner reviewed.

I will not repeat the full instructions here, but I will rely on you to make yourself fully aware of the guidance [published here](#), and I ask that you conduct your gas testing activities accordingly.

Weil's disease (Leptospirosis) – take precautions and know the symptoms

At the examiner seminars that took place at the end of last year we covered examiner experiences of accidents and injuries. Amazingly two examiners said they had contracted Weil's disease, and one of these was whilst being an examiner. For one of the examiners concerned it resulted in long term and continuing health issues and for a while these were life threatening. Weil's disease is the more virulent form of Leptospirosis.

The disease is rare with only between 50 and 70 cases each year in England and Wales, so to find two examiners out of a population of 225 was a great surprise. Because Weil's disease kills one or two people each year, it represents one of the health risks examiners need to take account of.

You'll know that Leptospirosis is caught by coming into contact with the urine of infected animals, mainly rodents, cattle and pigs and is most commonly found in stagnant water – so be mindful that handling wet ropes in marinas could potentially lead to the infection.

The organism can enter the body through cuts or abrasions on the skin; the lining of the mouth; nose or eyes. Infections can be very mild and cause no symptoms at all, or cause a flu-like illness.

About 90% of leptospirosis infections lead to minor symptoms, however if the condition progresses to a severe infection, it may affect organs, including the brain, liver, kidneys, heart and lungs. This can lead to further symptoms, including, jaundice (yellowing of the skin and the whites of the eyes), swollen ankles, feet or hands, chest pain, symptoms of meningitis or encephalitis such as headaches, vomiting and seizures; shortness of breath, coughing up blood. If left untreated, the infection may be life threatening, and could lead to brain damage, kidney failure, internal bleeding and loss of lung function.

The precautions you can take include the following:

- cover cuts and abrasions with a waterproof plaster;
- avoid rubbing your eyes, nose and mouth during work;
- after work and before taking food or drink, wash your hands thoroughly.

More advice concerning the health and safety responsibilities of examiners can be found [here](#)

Remember, that if you do present to your GP with symptoms that could possibly be Weil's disease, then make sure you tell your doctor your suspicions.

If you may have contracted leptospirosis at your place of work, notify your employer so they can report it. If you're self-employed, you should report it yourself to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

You can read more about [Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations](#) on the HSE website.

Brian Hayes retired

Brian Hayes the previous Chairman of ABSE has retired after many years of fine service to not only ABSE members but also through his membership of the BSS committees, where Brian was a key influence in developing the Scheme through its formative years.

Brian's 'normal' working career was with BT where he helped introduce electronic telephone exchanges in the 1970's and then other new technology as it arose. Latterly he worked for BT Global in far flung and some inhospitable lands. He ended up as a senior manager, working across the UK on behalf of a BT Director and it was probably this trouble-shooting role that stood him in such good stead for representing examiners. We wish him well in his retirement.

BSS Marketplace - late Christmas present list.... kit yourself out for the New Year



Don't forget the selection of BSS products from the 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 (24 December – 2 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 21 December. The next post out will be week commencing Monday 9 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**