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07 April 2017

Ref: 17-002

## BSS EXAMINER NEWS

Dear Examiner,

In this edition of BSS Examiner News we draw your attention to the revised BSS Examiner Conditions of Registration (CoR) and announce a) amended examiner guidance supporting the CoR and b) a modified investigation procedure used when any complaints are received that a breach of the CoR has occurred.

We also provide some crucial information for all examiners, about the impact of introducing the new and amended BSS Hire Boat Requirements and the retention of the 2002 BSS Standards for other non-private boats. We also repeat warnings not to break the law concerning manometer LPG tightness testing on boats subject to Gas Safety (installation & Use) Regulations.

### **The improved BSS Examiner Conditions of Registration are implemented**

Please note that the revised BSS Examiner Conditions of Registration (CoR) took effect from 1 April 2017. The CoR is available to view and print [here](#).

Thanks to those who contributed comments to the recent consultation on proposals to amend the CoR. The consultation came to an end on Friday 17 February.

The consultation posed three questions and there was an opportunity to provide any other general comments. In overview around 12.5% of examiners responded and nearly 80% of respondents were supportive of introducing a 'fairness and honesty' clause 3.1; and 68% of respondents agreed the list of behaviours that could invoke the proposed new 'integrity' clause 3.2.

All comments received are provided unedited on the Examiner Support website [here](#), together with any BSS Office response.

The examiner comments and BSS responses, were reviewed by the BSS Advisory Committee meeting on 20 February 2017 and a full consensus was in favour of recommending BSS Management Committee acceptance of the improved CoR. The BSS Management Committee provided that acceptance on 2 March, just in time for the re-registration invitation emails to examiners; and so by submitting your application to renew you have agreed to the improved CoR.

### **The simplified CoR Guidance is published**

In conjunction with the implementation of the improved CoR, the opportunity was taken to considerably simplify the guidance in support of the CoR. This guidance now purely explains terminology and explains, or elaborates on key terms and words used in the CoR clauses.

Where no explanation or elaboration is provided, the clause text is believed to be self-explanatory.

Please take time out to read this guidance as it will help explain the CoR and how it is to be applied. The CoR Guidance is available to view and print [here](#).

## **The CoR Investigation Procedure is brought up to date and improved**

The investigation procedure used to investigate complaints and allegations that an examiner has breached the CoR has also been simplified and improved with the help of examiner body reps.

The main improvements are these:

- a) The document text refers to complaints and complainants, wherever appropriate, especially in the 'Initial Assessment' stage;
- b) The procedure now clearly identifies those points at which the investigation can be ended and early resolution achieved. This removes perceptions that the procedure presumed all complaints were justified.
- c) The role of the BSS Management Committee Exec is highlighted and the lesser role of the non-Exec BSS Management Committee members clarified;
- d) The potential examiner support role of a Professional Body Representative is acknowledged.

The CoR Investigation Procedure is available to view and download [here](#).

## **The new and amended BSS hire boat checks are in - what it means for you**

The introduction of sixteen new and amended BSS Hire Boat Requirements and applying all private boat checks in a mandatory way, came into force on 1 April 2017. Over 90 BSS Examiners are trained and ready to apply the requirements to hire boats and hire operators must ensure that all their boats meet the BSS requirements from 1 April 2017.

Even if you are not an examiner who chose to do the training, the impact of introducing the new and amended BSS Hire Boat Requirements may well ripple down to you.

In order that the correct BSS requirements are applied, it is essential that all examiners establish the class of the boat at the time the agreement to examine it is entered into. It follows that the following information is essential to the accurate identification of hire boats.

For the purposes of the BSS 'hire boat' means any powered boat such as weekly and day hire craft. For example, those:

- let or hired under an arrangement, whether or not on a pre-contract basis;
- the subject of a bare boat charter arrangement;
- the subject of any form of third-party managed shared-use arrangement (including timeshare or shared ownership).

If you are asked to examine a shared ownership boat, the last bullet point above creates the need for you to ask about how the boat is managed. If say, a group of four owners agree the maintenance worklist and manage between themselves any maintenance work then the boat can be considered a private boat. If a different group sharing ownership off-load the maintenance and any associated worklist to a management company, then it should be deemed a hire boat for the purposes of the BSS requirements, because the owners are not in control of the risks to which they may be presented.

## **Non-private examinations subject to 2002 BSS Standards**

Please remember that the non-private classes of boats not included as hire boats, remain subject to the BSS 2002 Standards. Only those examiners who have undertaken training and assessment to the BSS 2002 Standards will be qualified to examine non-private classes of boats not included as hire boats.

## Are all hire operators ready for the changed BSS hire boat requirements?

During the Examiner training events for the new and amended BSS Hire Boat Requirements it became clear that many hire operators, generally smaller operators not members of British Marine, were seemingly unaware of the changes and had not made their boats compliant.

If you come across hire operators like this, please explain to them that existing BSS certifications on hire boats will remain valid until they expire, however the onus is on them to ensure their boats meet the new and amended BSS Requirements from 1 April 2017. Please also refer them to the information we have for hire operators on our website [here](#)

## GSIUR and manometer testing reminder

This article is a plea to keep on the right side of the law.

We continue to receive anecdotal reports that non-Gas Safe registered examiners are breaking the law by conducting LPG 'work' on boats in scope of the Gas Safety [Installation and Use] Regulations (GSIUR). If this continues its difficult to see how a prosecution is going to be avoided.

As the definition of 'work' covers the removal and replacement of a screw nipple on a gas test point, the scope of the GSIUR includes so this can include carrying out BSS LPG tightness.

Boats in scope include hire boats, boat used primarily by anyone for domestic or residential purposes and commercial boats such as floating cafes where people are invited on in the course of the business.

Remember that on a boat in scope of GSIUR, examiners who are not Gas Safe registered can only complete check 7.12.2 by either:

- undertaking a gas tightness test using a bubble tester where fitted and correctly located; **or**,
- observing the tightness test conducted by a (LPG boats-competent) Gas Safe registered installer.

For more information about keeping on the right side of the law in this respect, please visit the Examiner Support website [here](#) .

Best regards,



Graham Watts, **BSS Manager**