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BSS EXAMINER NEWS

Dear Examiner,

This edition of BSS Examiner News concentrates on the public consultation on proposals to introduce new mandatory BSS Requirements for CO alarms on boats. We also ask you what you know about old portable fire extinguishers on boats and that pre-date fire ratings, and we update you regarding the BSS Examiner Survey 2018.

Public consultation launched - CO alarms for all boats subject to the Scheme's requirements?

A public consultation on a proposal to introduce mandatory new BSS Requirements for CO alarms on boats began last Friday 17 August and ends at 16:30 on Friday 9 November 2018. Any interested BSS Examiners are welcome to provide comments.

Those examiners who are qualified to examiner hire boats will have a familiarity with the proposals for suitable CO alarms in good condition and in suitable locations. It is proposed that all classes of boat with accommodation spaces will be affected.

More information can be viewed on the dedicated consultation web page www.boatsafetyscheme.org/alarmconsultation2018 setting out the proposals, costs/benefits and other arguments. At the end of the web page is an online consultation form, where you can add your response to the consultation should you wish to contribute.

It is expected the revised BSS Requirements will be introduced in January 2019 and implemented as BSS checks on 1 April 2019 by which time, all BSS Examiners will have been trained to apply them.

You will note that the opportunity is being taken in the consultation to ask for views about the possibility of introducing a check for suitable working smoke alarms on private boats. This is purely intended to pre-empt an obvious stream of comments, had we not raised the subject of smoke alarms. Of course, any strong support for the idea will be useful for BSS Technical Committee to take account of.

What does the consultation mean for BSS Examiners?

a) It is likely that your customers will raise the matter with you. It would be good if you could promote the main reason behind the proposals, namely that new evidence collected indicates a potential risk to boat owners in their own boats, from sources of CO entering from adjacent boats, e.g. from the use of engines and appliances.

It would also be good if you could help your customers with any queries associated with the type/make of alarms to buy and where to fit them. A list of CO alarms recommended as suitable for boats by the makers/industry body is available [here](#). Placement advice should be taken from the fitting instructions with the alarm, but if these are difficult to meet on a boat, then best practice placement guidance can be found on page 12 of the CO Safety on Boats leaflet. The online leaflet is available [here](#).

b) Training on the new BSS Requirements will be necessary. The 80+ BSS Examiners who have been trained to apply the 2017 BSS Hire Boat Requirements will not need to undergo further training. For the rest, there will be a need to undergo training, however it is intended that this can be largely achieved online with validation achieved at the next attended training opportunity. More on this in future newsletters.

Have you found any portable fire extinguishers without fire ratings in recent years?

We are currently undertaking a mini-review of the 2015 Examination Checking Procedures and we would very much appreciate your help answering a question we have about portable fire extinguishers.

The check concerned is 6.1.1 and we would like to know if you have come across any portable fire extinguishers in the last four years, where you needed to apply the 1st Applicability, namely, where you applied the navigation authorities' previous individual and total weight requirements as listed in Appendix H.

We are developing a very simple Survey Monkey survey for you to let us know of your experience. The facility will be live from Tuesday morning and your responses will help us consider if it is the right time to remove the Applicability and Appendix.

You will receive another BSS Office email once the facility is live and then please follow the link to the survey question; it will only take a few seconds to complete.

Responses within two weeks would be very helpful.

BSS Examiner Survey 2018 - update

Just an update and to thank you for your responses. Over 70% of examiners replied which is considered a very good sample.

Results being analysed by Morale Solutions, and we should be in a position to publish the results in the next newsletter in about 3-4 weeks' time.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G.A. Watts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Graham Watts, **BSS Manager**