

Boat Safety Scheme

Part 6

Fire prevention and extinguishing equipment

Fire extinguishing and escape

Key Changes..

- 'Express/expiry date'
- Reduction of fire extinguishers
- Location of extinguishers
- Fixed System - remote release
- Note exemption for boats manufactured prior to 16 June 1998
- Exemption for means of escape

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.1

Exemption 11.12

Vessels manufactured prior to 16 June 1998 and comply with the navigation authority's previous requirements for fire extinguishers are not required to comply with that part of the standard 6.1 which prescribes a minimum fire rating for each extinguisher and a minimum combined fire rating until such time as the existing extinguishers are life expired or discharged.

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.1

The total weight of the minimum number of approved extinguishers must equal or exceed any navigation Authority's previous requirements (see Appendix H)

Additional information

It is good practice to service extinguishers on a regular basis - particularly when they are subject to damp or humid conditions and vibration.

It is not a requirement under BSS for extinguishers to be serviced.

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.1

TABLE 6.2

NAVIGATION AUTHORITIES' PREVIOUS REQUIREMENTS

NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY (THAMES REGION)				
LENGTH OF CRAFT	MINIMUM NUMBER	TYPES OF EXTINGUISHER AND MINIMUM TOTAL CAPACITY		
		DRY POWDER or B.C.F.	CARBON DIOXIDE	FOAM
up to 5m (16ft)	1	1.5kg (3.3 lbs)	2.25kg (4.96 lbs)	9 litre (2 gallons)
5m - 8m (16ft-26ft)	2	2.5kg (5.5 lbs)	4.5kg (9.9 lbs)	18 litre (4 gallons)
8m-11m (26ft-36ft)	2	3.5kg (7.7 lbs)	5.5kg (12.12 lbs)	18 litre (4 gallons)
over 11m	3	5.5kg (12.12 lbs)	9.5kg (20.9 lbs)	36 litre (8 gallons)
Minimum size of each extinguisher		1.0kg (2.2 lbs)	2.25kg (4.96 lbs)	9 litre (2 gallons)

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.1

TABLE 6.3

NAVIGATION AUTHORITIES' PREVIOUS REQUIREMENTS

NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY (ANGLIA REGION)			
LENGTH OF CRAFT	MINIMUM NUMBER	TYPES OF EXTINGUISHER & MINIMUM TOTAL CAPACITY	
		DRY POWDER or B.C.F.	CARBON DIOXIDE
under 5m	1	1.0 kg	1.25kg
5m - 9m	2	2.5kg	4.5kg
9m - 12m	2	3.5kg	6.0kg
over 12m	3	6.0kg	9.5kg
Minimum size of each extinguisher		1.0kg	1.25kg

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.1

TABLE 6.4

PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

SUMMARY OF EXTINGUISHER REQUIREMENTS			
LENGTH OF VESSEL	MINIMUM NUMBER OF EXTINGUISHERS	MINIMUM FIRE RATING OF EACH EXTINGUISHER	MINIMUM COMBINED FIRE RATING OF EXTINGUISHERS
Up to 7m	2	5A/34B	10A/68B
7m-11m	2	5A/34B	13A/89B
Over 11m	3	5A/34B	21A/144B

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.3

Fire blankets having BS 476 marked on the fire blanket or outer cover no longer meet the Boat Safety Scheme requirements

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.3

Exemption 11.13

Vessels manufactured prior to 16 June 1998 and carrying a fire blanket in good condition are not required to comply with that part of Standard 6.3 which prescribes that fire blankets shall comply with at least the "light duty" requirements of BS 6575.

This exemption will be rescinded on 16 June 2000 or the first Boat Safety Certificate examination after this date.

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.4

Materials recommended to be used are those which do not quickly spread fire

- GRP - Class 2 BS 476:Part 7
- Polystyrene insulation - Type A BS 3837:Part 1
- Soft furnishings - BS EN 1021 Parts 1 & 2

Additional information

Class	Spread at 1.5 mins	Final Spread
1	165 mm	165 mm
2	215 mm	455 mm
3	265 mm	710 mm

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.4

Exemption 11.14

Vessels manufactured prior to 16 June 1998 are not required to comply with that part of Standard 6.4 which requires exposed GRP structure to be coated with suitable fire-retardant material complying with the Class 2 requirements of BS 476:Part 7 until such time as visual inspection of the exposed GRP structure shows deterioration

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.5

Polystyrene thermal insulation is to comply with the Type A requirements of:

- BS 3837: Part 1 Expanded Polystyrene Boards
“Specification for boards manufactured from expandable beads”
- Any exposed insulation is examined for marking to indicate compliance with this Standard
IF NO INSULATION IS VISIBLE THE CHECK IS DISCONTINUED

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.5

Exemption 11.15

Vessels manufactured prior to 16 June 1998
are not required to comply with the
requirements of Standard 6.5

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.6

- All soft furnishings, fabrics, and foam materials used for lining out and furnishing vessels shall be suitable fire resistant materials
- These are materials which on combustion release minimal amounts of toxic products
- Upholstery fabrics are to satisfy the cigarette and butane flame tests of :
- BS EN 1021 Parts 1 and 2
- There are no visual indications that a material is fire resistant and as any test is a destructive test, there is no reliable method of determining fire resistance

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.6

At present, the use of fire resistant materials will not be checked during the Boat Safety Scheme examination but see Exemption 11.16

At present, compliance with the cigarette and butane flame test will not be checked during the Boat Safety Scheme examination but if there are indications of heat damage such as burning or scorching this is an indication that the material no longer complies

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.6

Exemption 11.16

Vessels manufactured prior to 16 June 1998
are not required to comply with the
requirements of Standard 6.6

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.7

All vessels shall have two means of escape from accommodation areas.

All means of escape shall have a minimum clear opening of 0.2m² and a minimum width of 380mm

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.7

Measure the minimum clear opening of all means of escape.

Minimum clear opening is 0.2m² and minimum width 380mm

You may come across a CE marked boat under 15mts in length with only one means of escape, please contact the BSS office.

Fire extinguishing and escape 6.7

Exemption 11.17

Vessels manufactured prior to 16 June 1998 are not required to comply with the requirements of standard 6.7 where it is not practicable to modify the structure to provide two means of escape

Boat Safety Scheme

End of part 6

Fire extinguishing and escape