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13 February 2019

Ref: 19-001

## BSS EXAMINER NEWS

**Dear Examiner,**

This edition of BSS Examiner News confirms the BSS Management Committee decision to implement the BSS CO alarm requirements from April and outlines what happens next. There are BSS staff changes in the pipeline with two vacancies. We also ask you to prepare for BSS Examiner Re-registration. There's an update on the Examiner Survey findings and have two training topics, the LPG course and we ask if any examiners are interested in a Hire Boat Requirements upgrade? Finally, we seek your help with sourcing any 'black museum' outboard fuel system components we could use.

### **BSS CO alarm requirements to come in on 1 April**

Following the public consultation in Autumn 2018, the BSS Management Committee decided that from 1 April this year, new BSS Requirements for CO alarms on all boats in scope of the private, non-private and hire types of BSS Examination will be introduced. Strong support for the changes was demonstrated in the responses to the consultation with 84% in favour of introducing a requirement for suitable working CO alarms.

Note: for boats having existing valid BSS certifications, they will remain valid without further examination, but owners must meet the new requirements from this April.

To support the examination process, there will be a draft new Appendix for your ECPs as well as training and assessment by way of a short online course. We will not be renewing the Examination Record form right now as there are some other changes to the ECPs in the pipeline this year and no one will want to see repeated printing and scrapping of bulky forms. We will give you a temporary solution.

Final versions of the new Checks 6.4.1 – 6.4.4 are available to view and download here [[LINK](#)]. But be sure not to apply the checks until 1 April 2019 and after you have undertaken the online course.

Three of the four new checks are mandatory so are Requirements (R) that address the potential risk to boaters, over which they have no control, being CO from sources generated outside of the boat by others e.g. the use of engines and appliances on adjacent boats.

Check 6.4.1R - covers the provision and number of alarms in accommodation spaces.

Check 6.4.2A - An advice check for private boats with solid fuel appliances specifically for an alarm in the same space as any solid fuel stove, but as an Advice Check, non-compliance will not prevent private boat BSS certification. There will be equivalent Requirement checks for non-private and hire boat checks.

Check 6.4.3R - addresses where the CO alarm must be located, that it must have accredited third party accreditation and must have a functionality test button.

Check 6.4.4R - covers the condition of an alarm i.e. signs of damage or deterioration; is within the manufacturer's replacement date and the test button works.

For those qualified to carry out BSS examinations to the Hire Boat Requirements the Checks will look familiar and note that the new Checks will move on 1 April from Part 10 into Part 6 and will be applied to all boat classes.

We have seen that some examiners have already been inserting 'NS' comments into their reports advising their customers of the forthcoming need for alarms and that is great, you are giving customer service and good safety advice.

So, on that subject, of giving advance warning of the implementation of the new Requirements, several new resources will start to appear to encourage boat owners to comply from April or before. This should help because it should persuade owners to act early rather than wait for their Examiner to explain at the time of the next BSS examination that new requirements came in months or years ago.

Shortly, new web information will appear containing clear guidance on alarm selection, where to buy suitable alarms, clear advice concerning where to locate the alarm(s) and information on what to do if the alarm activates.

We will shortly be announcing a new member of the BSS team, Coco the safety hound will be appearing in a series of short videos explaining the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning for those boaters who may not be fully aware. Also, watch out for waterways press running articles about CO dangers and choosing CO alarms and reminding people of the implementation date.

We'll let you know when the resources are up and running and be sure that Examiners have an important role leading up to April and beyond. So as with the examiners mentioned above, we would welcome you pointing your customers to our web information when its launched and if you can leave a new leaflet on board any boat with accommodation space(s). The printing of the leaflets, which focus on meeting the new BSS Requirements from April starts next week and a batch will be sent to you soon.

In advance of April, there will be a short online course for all BSS Examiners to go through concerning applying the new checks. The learning will be validated at the LPG Update Course.

## **BSS Team job vacancies**

To let you know that the BSS are currently recruiting for two posts; in case you are interested, or in case there is anyone you know who may appreciate being alerted to the vacancies.

The web adverts are here:

- BSS Manager - <https://careers-canalrivertrust.icims.com/jobs/5591/boat-safety-scheme-manager/job>
- BSS Delivery Executive - <https://careers-canalrivertrust.icims.com/jobs/5547/boat-safety-scheme-delivery-executive/job>

Closing date is 4 March for both vacancies.

Filling the posts is in the BSS four year plan and will allow us to be resilient into the future. For example, I will be reducing to three days per week from late April and my role will be to assist the new manager. The BSS Delivery Executive role will enable us to do better in many areas including supporting Examiners do a great job. If you click on the links you'll find out much more about what the roles involve.

## **BSS Examiner Annual Registration - things to do immediately**

The next Examiner Newsletter due within the next ten days will cover the annual registration process in more detail, however before then, there are two things you can do immediately:

### **- Check your photo**

Your current file photo will be used for your new identity card and BSS website. Yours can be viewed on your personal details page on Salesforce. Does your image reflect what you see in the mirror; i.e. would your customer recognise you from the website? Is it clear and current?

If you wish to change your photo on your ID card and website, it can be done at re-registration time for free. Send us a digital image of not more than 150kb size. Photos must reach us at the latest by Friday 22 February.

The specification is: head and shoulders only, pin-sharp focus; plain background. It must not appear too dark, too bright or washed out. A photo/ID card replacement at any other time outside of the re-registration period will have to be charged at £7.75 (+VAT) to cover card/administration/postage.

### **- Let us know if you are not registering for 2019-20**

If you have decided not to re-register, and if you have not already done so, please let me or Tracy know as soon as possible. It would be good to know the reasons for your decision.

## **Examiner Survey – what’s happening to follow up the findings?**

Since we carried out the Examiner Survey last summer we have been working to improve the way the Boat Safety Scheme office works for you. In the next few weeks, a review of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) will be undertaken, this will involve the examiner body representatives as well as other interested parties. This review will ensure that the SLA is up to date and relevant to both the Scheme and Examiners alike.

The Salesforce platform is currently undergoing a substantial development; we are working with our Salesforce partners to upgrade our database and improve the website for Examiners.

This upgrade should make the service a lot more streamlined and interlinked including dealing with queries and improved report printing.

It will also provide the foundation for future additional services such as apps for mobile devices.

These are the two most prominent aspects of work that hopefully go some way to demonstrate that the BSS have taken the results and recommendations of the survey to heart and are actively involved in improving what we do for you.

## **LPG update course – Spring 2019**

In the next newsletter the dates and venues will be published and then it will be for you to book yourself on the attended course. Courses will run from late April to June but date options for courses in your immediate area will be limited.

As always, the attended training will take place reasonably locally to you and will be provided at cost. There is no charge for the online elements which will likely be available in late March.

### **Are you interested to attend a BSS Hire Boat Requirements course?**

Anyone who missed out on the BSS hire boat requirements training in 2017 and who wishes to be qualified to undertake BSS examinations on hire boats should contact us

[bss.office@boatsafetyscheme.org](mailto:bss.office@boatsafetyscheme.org)

There is no course planned as yet, but we want to gauge if there is any interest.

### **Can you help – do you have any ‘black museum’ outboard fuel system components?**

You'll be aware that we are developing an improved training course for new examiner candidates and we are currently looking for examples of non-complaint outboard fuel system components. You can help us if you have somehow acquired examples of:

- a) portable petrol tanks with rust holes, repair patches, corroded plastic, missing handles, modifications, tanks not of suitable proprietary manufacture, tanks over 30 litres capacity;
- b) outboard tank hoses not suitable for petrol, damaged hoses, hoses not clamped or with clamps that aren't proprietary, split primer bulb, primer bulbs not connected appropriately, quick release connectors that are not proprietary or that are not connected appropriately;
- c) petrol containers not suitable for petrol, damaged containers, etc.

If you have outboard fuel system components not on the list that you think could aid the training course, please let me know.

If you can help, please contact me and let me know what you have. It could be that we collect the item(s) or it may be that we simply ask for photographs.

Best regards,



Graham Watts, **BSS Manager**