

Boat Safety Scheme
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19 March 2020

COVID-19 Statement

This is the current navigation authority position (as of 18 March 2020) concerning the impact of coronavirus on the activities of the BSS.

The BSS Management Committee is unequivocal, the Boat Safety Scheme and the requirement for boats to hold BSS Certifications is a critical safety activity.

Therefore, BSS Examiners conducting BSS examinations and verifying boats as compliant remains essential, and so for examiners and boat owners the position is 'business as usual'.

The situation is being continually monitored and we need to be alive to the possibility that navigation authorities' positions may change as new information or conditions occur.

We recommended that BSS Examiners regularly visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>.

They are advised to follow that Government guidance; including on how to protect themselves. Its advice includes some risk mitigation measures that they may deploy, such as: -

- isolating if they have a new continuous cough, or a high temperature;
- asking their customers if they are free from those symptoms too;
- ensuring social distancing of at least 2m, especially if they or their customer is older or is considered vulnerable;
- regular hand washing for 20 seconds using soap and hot water;
- cleaning/disinfecting regularly touched objects and surfaces.

In the current environment, any boat owners wanting to know if their boat can have temporary break from registration or BSS certification, they must contact the relevant licensing authority as it is the only body that can answer such a question.