

Boat Safety Scheme
First Floor North
Station House, 500 Elder Gate
Milton Keynes, MK9 1BB



Telephone 0333 202 1000

Examiner's Email: BSS.office@boatsafetyscheme.org

Examiner's Website: www.boatsafetyscheme.org/professionals

03 November 2020

Ref: 20-010

BSS EXAMINER NEWS

Dear Examiner

In this edition we have five topics starting with the information that broke over the weekend about a the COVID-19 related lockdown news from Westminster. We also cover LPG Upgrade Course Training feedback, as well as LPG core knowledge competence for those examiners who did not attend LPG Upgrade training and assessment.

We also introduce our new BSS Business & Technical Manager Graham Forbes who joined us at the end of September.

Finally, we wave goodbye to Conga and welcome Weaver as the report generator tool on the BSS Community database.

Latest COVID-19 Statement

The Boat Safety Scheme is following current UK Government advice ['Guidance for people working in, visiting or delivering to other people's homes'](#) as a model. BSS Examinations will continue where it is safe to do so. Our advice to boat owners is to continue to contact an Examiner to arrange their boat's examination as per usual.

As in the last lock-down, current BSS Certification expiry dates are not being extended. However, Navigation Authorities may consider, on a case by case basis, any extenuating circumstances. In any such case where a boat is not available to be examined due to COVID-19 related issues and a BSS Certification is needed to support a necessary licence application, a registration, a toll etc, then the owner needs to liaise as soon as possible with the relevant Navigation Authority, (not the Boat Safety Scheme), and seek that authority's assistance in this matter.

If a new BSS Certification is required by a marina or insurance company, but the owner cannot arrange an Examination, the boat owner must talk directly with the marina management or insurer about their individual circumstances, this is not within the BSS zone of influence and we would be unable to assist.

For reference, there is further information for boat owners making examination arrangements on the BSS website at <https://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/boat-examination-and-certification/arranging-the-examination/>

However, as always, examiners and boat owners must remain mindful of, and pay heed to, any local or regional variations to official policy as we go forward.

A revised version of the guidance, 'Examinations in the time of COVID-19' with some fine tuning will be published this week, but there is no radical change to the current messages.

LPG Upgrade Training Course and Feedback

Thank you for your recent attendance on the above training course. It was fantastic to meet you all and put names to faces. I'm pleased to say the success rate has been brilliant so far with only two courses commencing 9th November left to deliver.

As you can imagine with a complex project, some things went better than we had imagined and other elements not as well as we had planned.

One success I particularly enjoyed was the peer debate, I found it extremely useful and informative. During our time together I advised my intention to consolidate all feedback so we may improve the BSS from a more informed, transparent and holistic position.

So, with a more transparent and collaborative approach in mind, it's important to spare five minutes to complete the LPG Update Course satisfaction survey – I can assure you it's important to us that we understand what went well and what we could have done better.

May I also take this opportunity to thank those examiners who have already completed the post-course feedback questionnaire. The comments are being shared with Roy and Andy from Evesham as well as the BSS team, so your input is truly valued.

If you have had your congratulatory letter with Certificate of Successful Attendance and new appendices, the survey invitation is included within this communication.

More congratulatory letters from the most recent courses are going out this week; eyes peeled for those examiners please.

LPG Core Knowledge Assurance and Examiners Withdrawing from the Scheme

There are examiners who have expressed a wish is to withdraw from BSS Examiner status at the end of March 2021 and so were not required to attend Evesham College.

Albeit that it is a comparatively short period, we still have duty to have periodic assurance of LPG competence of the Examiner corps before the end of March.

So for those few examiners who did not attend Evesham, they should expect a request next week to undergo the online element of the course specifically covering the fundamental knowledge underpinning the examination of a boat's LPG system, for instance, the nature of LPG including its explosive limits and the component parts of an LPG system, etc.

New BSS Business & Technical Manager



We welcome Graham Forbes IMEng, who is a highly knowledgeable Incorporated Marine Engineer with international experience across the world and a degree in Underwater Science & Technology.

He started off life as a weekend yard hand with Bert Bushnells, hire fleet operator on the River Thames in Maidenhead, whilst still at school. From that he got an apprenticeship with the company and trained as a Marine Craft Fitter.

At the age of 21 he went to sea and has remained in the marine trade ever since. He has wide-ranging experience, working on everything from small private boats to mega-yachts, and from warships as support engineer, to offshore support vessels as an ROV Engineer and Supervisor.

Having previously travelled the world, home life for Graham is now in Devon.

He is passionate about modern technology and the environment. He loves the outdoors, both marine and on land, and making it better and safe place for people to enjoy is something he aspires to.

He has already hit the ground running and is busily engaged on topics from smoke alarms to the examiner development strategy, ensuring the points from the examiner survey, and more, are addressed.

He hopes to meet as many examiners as he can, over the next several months, COVID-19 restrictions allowing.

Goodbye Conga, hello Weaver

We wave goodbye to Conga and welcome Weaver as the report document generator tool on the BSS Community database.

Izy Callow from the BSS Office team emailed all examiners on, or around, 23/10/2020 with instructions. If you haven't seen these and you cannot find the email in your emails in box or spam folder, please contact bss.office@boatsafetyscheme.org for another copy.

Best regards and keep safe,

Kevin Tyson

BSS Manager