



BSS EXAMINER NEWS

Dear Examiner

We have the latest COVID-19 advice and some notes of appreciation.

COVID-19

New tier, new restrictions for some.

The Navigation Authorities have advised the BSS Management Committee that safety critical activity of BSS Examinations is essential work.

As such following guidance on the UK Government website for the English tier system, including Tier 4 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home#businesses-and-venues>), undertaking BSS Examinations continues to be an option, for BSS examiners, based on your personal risk assessment.

Risk assessment should continue to be made for every BSS Examination to protect yourself and your customers. You should devise a safe working method that avoids your infection and/or, you passing on the virus to others in each situation.

There is further good UK Government advice here which we urge you to read and take account of <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/homes>

Finally, please pay heed to any local or regional variations in the rules. We know it is sometimes tricky to follow, but regular checks on the various national and local government websites relevant to you, will help you keep across this important subject.

BSS Management Committee

We have a personal message from the Chair of the BSS Management Committee, Julie Sharman, Chief Operating Officer of the Canal & River Trust;



"It hardly needs saying that 2020 has been a hard year for everyone, but I know it has been an especially tough one for BSS Examiners. Yet despite all the challenges, you have done an outstanding job.

"While we haven't caught up with 2016 certification levels year on year quite yet, you have been examining boats at record breaking levels. The last six months from the start of June have been the busiest ever on record for this period.

"So, on behalf of the BSS Management Committee and particularly all the navigation authorities who rely on you in your important safety role, I offer you a heartfelt note of appreciation; thank you, and I hope we all have a successful, safe and happy 2021."

BSS Manager Message

“Obviously, I echo the thanks and appreciation to you from the Chair of the BSS, an exceptional performance during an unprecedented year.

The highlight of my year was in meeting over 120 examiners during the LPG upgrade training at Evesham. I was enthused by the huge amount of dedication, interest and ideas you have as a group, passionate about being a BSS Examiner.

From our discussions, I came away with a determination to do my best for you and your customers, the boat owners.

We have many opportunities coming up, to learn from your experiences and put that learning into the services, systems and support that top-class BSS Examiners deserve. So, with many planned improvements in the pipeline, we are engaging, we are listening, and we are acting on your feedback.

David, Graham Forbes, Graham Watts, Izy, Phil, Rob, Tracy and I, would all like to wish you a very happy Christmas and healthy and prosperous 2021.

Office support times

The office will be closed for the Christmas and New Year bank holidays, but there will be skeleton coverage for any questions via 0333 202 1000 or bss.office@boatsafetyscheme.org between Christmas and New Year.

Coming up in 2021

We hope to send you the first newsletter of 2021 in the second week of January

Big changes have just been made behind the scenes in the BSS Database and we are almost at the point of changing the old Examiner Portal for the new BSS Examiner Community, and we hope to give you news about that.

Improvements to the Appliance Record system is next on the list prior to creating a BSS Examiner app for mobile devices.

There will be instructions about new fields to complete on screen – propane lock-up value, butane lock-up value, time to lock-up, and a new field related to LPG regulators.

We will be recording the existence of toilets with over-board discharge and the long-promised change of the name for the comments now called NS (non-specific) to AO (Additional Observations) will also be happening.

Also coming up, we will launch a short, sharp survey on the existence of smoke alarms on boats which is something we would like your help with.

There is more to follow in the New Year.

Kind regards

From all the BSS Office Team for 2020