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BSS EXAMINER NEWS

Dear Examiner,

BSS Examiner News – 16-Month Online Training Programme Special Edition

In March we advised that there would be an extensive online training programme starting this year and that the details would be subject to the discussions with the practitioner group representatives. That discussion has happened, and an agreement was reached, and this newsletter sets out the context and the general approach of the agreed Training Programme. A further email from our training consultant will set out how the programme will work in detail.

Context

Last January, we started training new Examiners. The first cohort having done their initial online training by May, attended a five-day learning and assessment event at Evesham college, which covered LPG and Electrical Core Knowledge. This was followed by more online modules and then another intense five days last week at the new BSS Fieldcraft Training Centre at the Broads Authority's dockyard in Norwich.

The online learning consists of much more background knowledge and supporting information than we have taught previously. The attended learning now consists of full Examination practice for Parts 2-9, as well as policy and processes of the BSS. Their final assessment will be a full Examination of a boat after attending the fieldcraft training event in Norwich.

Should they succeed, their registrations will coincide with the publication in early Autumn of the revised BSS Core Examination Checking Procedures.

The 2021 ECPs for Private Boats (and Hire Boats where the checks apply to both) coming soon.

There are **no new** Requirements in the revised ECPs, but the checking scope, checking actions and applicabilities have been revisited with the aim of making BSS Checks more straightforward to interpret and so easier to deliver consistently. The amendments are currently going through final stages in the BSS Committees and we expect to publish and adopt these ECPs in early autumn subject to approval. We will keep you informed on progress.

Level playing field in knowledge, information access and Examination practice

There was a clear message in the Examiner Survey that Examination consistency is a big concern to Examiners, as is the opinion that every Examiner should have access to the same information.

Examiners want clear and consistent knowledge and support information to help them do their work. So to help deliver these things, we are asking that all Examiners complete a supported online learning programme over the next 16 months.

The intention is to ensure that every Examiner, irrespective of when they first joined, is on a level playing field in knowledge and understanding of the Checks and support information.

The process of developing the new Examiner Training provided the opportunity to collate The ECP Knowledge into a reference library providing one version of the truth, which can be readily accessed by all BSS Staff, Consultants and Examiners. It benefits from collating all the information underpinning good Examination practice. Given how many people have involved in writing this material, we know that this will present an excellent source of readily available reference material.

It is worth saying that all this module writing has not happened in a vacuum. The content for the training modules has been drawn from Examiners comments in Field Assessments, Desk Top Assessments results, queries to the BSS Office, complaint investigations, discussions in various BSS Committees, information from British Marine and briefings from competent authorities, consultants and professional bodies.

All the modules have been undertaken by the first cohort of 40 new entrant trainees and several existing Examiners, so we have already been able to take account of comments and improvement suggestions.

Programme plan

The cost to deliver this supported online learning to existing examiners is £269 +VAT and this includes help and guidance where needed.

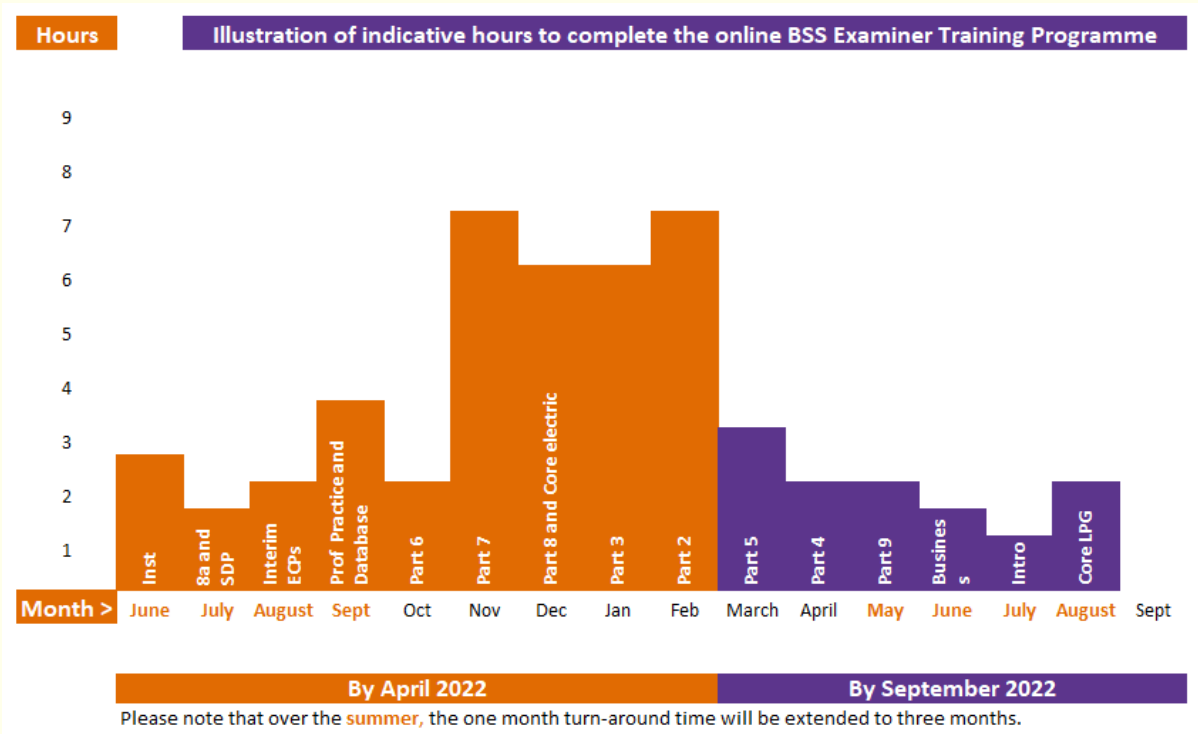
Having had extensive discussions with the Examiner representatives on the BSS Committees, we have agreed that the programme will run from now all through this year and into the next to end of September 2022 in order to give Examiners adequate time to complete each module and the whole programme.

In general, the approach has been to put the more intensive longer modules into the winter schedule, however, various matters have highlighted that some Examiners have a shortfall of consistency of application and understanding of certain elements of the examination process. Therefore, we will be asking examiners to undertake a mini Part 8 ventilation module in July 2021.

The training programme is built of 19 separate modules of varying length. For the avoidance of confusion, all of the modules covering BSS Checking Procedures are based on the new ECPs from the interim review.

The Modules will be released monthly rather than all in one go, this is to provide plenty of time to complete the Module before another is released.

There will be a month to complete each Module, and this will be typically extended to three months for Modules released over the summer months because those 'summer' modules are the shorter ones in the programme.



The key Checking Procedures Modules are planned to be completed by April 2022 with the full programme to be completed by September 2022

The Bratton Group (TBG) will be managing the rollout of all Modules and handling all your queries related to the system. TBG will send you an email on 30 June with further details and the release of the first very short Module which given the obvious title of 'Instructions', being a basic how to learn using the BSS Online Training Programme.

If you have any practical questions, these will be handled by TBG and **the crucial email address to save in your contacts** is BSSCourses@TheBrattonGroup.co.uk

If you have any policy questions, please do not hesitate to ask via bss.office@boatsafetyscheme.org

Kind regards and keep safe

Kevin Tyson

BSS manager

Best regards and keep safe,

Kevin Tyson

BSS Manager