

Boat Safety Scheme
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Examiner's Website: www.boatsafetyscheme.org/professionals

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BSS EXAMINER NEWS

Dear Examiner

This edition contains news of: -

- the latest COVID-19 advice and support for BSS Examiners and boat owner customers
- a new appliance information joint initiative (see also a mystery appliances attachment)
- an interim BSS Technical Briefing on diesel fuelled appliances (see two attachments)
- two new members of the BSS Office Team
- 2021 round-up and look forward to 2022

COVID-19 Advice and support

With the new fast spreading COVID19 variant, case numbers are growing very rapidly, we have trawled through the three nation's Governments' advice for workers, especially those working in other people's properties and homes. We used that research to produce a revised and simplified support page on this subject.

The core advice of good hygiene, maintaining space and having good ventilation remains the bedrock and there are currently no new restrictions on work-based activity for BSS Examiners, but there are new recommendations concerning the use of lateral flow tests and using masks.

Examiners will need to be aware of the self-isolating rules, either because the regulations may affect their customers, or they may affect them as workers which the Governments expect them to follow.

The new simplified advice and support page for Examiners is here <https://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/professionals/examination/examination-guidance/covid-19/> and the advice for customers is here (make sure your customers are aware of what they need to do) <https://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/requirements-examinations-certification/arranging-the-examination/preparing-for-examination/covid-19-bss-examinations/>

And the critical message to boat owners is to talk with their BSS Examiner and prepare well so the examination goes smoothly and hopefully passes first time, so you don't have to make a return visit.

Establishing heat input ratings for fuel burning appliances

The recent 8a – Fixed Ventilation Examiner training module set out the approach Examiners should take when establishing heat input ratings for fuel burning appliances.

Input ratings for appliances (output ratings for solid fuel appliances) should be established from:

1. The appliance's data plates; or,
2. From the BSS's list of appliance kW ratings which can be found on the Examiner support website at <https://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/professionals/examination/technical-news-info/ventilation-calculation-list-of-appliances/> ; or,
3. Manufacturer's published information, including from the internet.

Also, in the absence of a readable data plate, an output rating of 5kW may be assumed for normal-sized solid fuel stoves (this figure cannot be used for particularly large stoves or for ranges).

In the event Examiners are stuck and can't establish accurately the necessary heat input/output information, the [BSS Office should be contacted](#) for guidance. Examiners may call the Office, but email is by far the best way, including useful photographs to aid identification of the appliance.

To help support Examiners the Office is setting up a process whereby enquiries received regarding appliance kW ratings will initially be reviewed by the Office (where practicable within two working days).

However, there may be circumstances where the Office also cannot establish the kW rating. In such circumstances the Office will be emailing all Examiners in the hope that one or more of you may recognise the appliance and know it's kW rating. There's not likely to be many such requests, but when they do come through the Office and the original enquiring Examiners will be very appreciative of any information you may have.

Next year the Office will be improving the way it holds records of appliances and how the information is made available to Examiners, but until then, we have an appliance help request.

We've recently received requests and images from some Examiners – see the attached mystery appliance document. The Examiners were unable to find a manufacturer's data plate or input rating information. And despite our best efforts, the BSS Office has also been unable to establish the kW rating. So we are asking if you recognise these appliances, if you do know what these are, can you confirm the following:

Make,
model,
heat input (kW) rating?

Possibly you may also have some manufacturer's published documentation for these appliances, if would you be prepared to share it with other Examiners via the BSS Office?

If you can help, the BSS Office team and other examiners would be extremely grateful.

Diesel Fuelled heaters – A review is underway, but we have an interim Technical Briefing

The BSS is aware that an increasing number of automotive variant diesel heaters are being installed in small craft and that diesel heaters and stoves are being supplied into the small

craft market with small capacity unmarked plastic fuel tanks and unmarked plastic/nylon fuel lines.

At a meeting in October 2021 the BSS Technical Committee agreed to undertake a wide-ranging review covering the supply, installation and use of diesel appliances and their fuel systems. It's possible the review may lead to permanent changes to the published BSS Requirements.

However, until the full review has been completed the BSS Technical Committee has agreed an interim position regarding small capacity unmarked plastic fuel tanks and unmarked plastic/nylon fuel lines supplying permanently installed diesel heaters and diesel stoves.

The Technical Briefing Note and the accompanying document, both attached, set out the interim approach

New people in the BSS Office team

BSS Delivery Executive



Peter Twomey Joined the BSS Office from the world of insurance in late November and is a direct replacement for Izy Callow who moved back the Canal & River Trust in June.

Peter's role is quality assurance support and data analysis. Amongst other matters, Peter will be part of the Quality Assessment team and will have a key role in gathering and collating boat incident data.

BSS Customer Service Officer



Janine Stafford Joined the BSS in the first week of December from the Canal & River Trust National Licence Support team.

Janine's role is new to the BSS Office and is intended to bring a continuous improvement process to BSS customer service and help in the delivery of those improved services to BSS Examiners, navigation authorities, boat owners and the marine trade.

And finally, 2021 and 2022

This autumn has seen the registration of some of the new cohort of examiners. The BSS Office team know that the existing examiners have worked incredibly hard this year. There have been more examinations so far this year than we have had since 2013 and by fewer

examiners. We also know we have set out a comprehensive training programme with extra demands on time, to try to ensure that all examiners, whether 'old' or 'new' are all singing from the same hymn sheet and have the same level of knowledge and understanding.

So we are deeply appreciative of your energy, your support, and your feedback through the year.

In early January, we will have another newsletter with information on a consultation on formalising the new requirements, the lower requirements and the further compliance options introduced in the ECPs. We will also have information about the re-registration for 2022-23.

The BSS Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's bank holiday (3 Jan 2022). The phone cover will be

Dave – Wednesday 29 Dec – 07766 774727

Graham – Thursday 30 Dec – 07768 486189

Rob – Friday 31 Dec - 07710 175478

We hope you have great festive season, and we wish you best for the New Year.

Best regards and keep safe

Kevin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Tyson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Tyson

BSS Manager