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**13 April 2022**

**Ref: 22-002**

## **BSS EXAMINER NEWS**

**Dear Examiner**

**The topic covered in this newsletter are: -**

- News briefs
- Revised ECPs, some aspects under consultation & the implications
- COVID-19 rule changes

**News briefs**

Thank you for registering for 2022-23. It may be helpful for you to know that you should not expect your invoice for the annual registration fee before 22 April 2022.

Peter in the BSS Office team [[Dec 21 Newsletter](#)] is currently undertaking an insurance audit and he expects to be contacting the block policy providers to confirm relevant stated cover claims. We are duty bound to remind you to not undertake any BSS examinations unless your cover is confirmed.

**Monthly Technical Bulletins**

Starting in the Summer of 2022, the BSS Technical Team are planning to introduce routine Technical Bulletins. Amongst other things, the Bulletins will be used to:

- disseminate to all Examiners the answers to interesting queries which have come into the Office from Examiners and boat owners
- cover technical topics expressly requested by Examiners
- inform all Examiners about trends and/or support needs being picked up during routing Desk Top and Field Assessments.

If there is a subject for the Technical Bulletin that you would like to see covered, please let us know what technical subject you want to know more about and why.

## **The Revised ECPs, a Consultation on some of its aspects and its consequences**

In the time that elapsed since September 2021 when the interim revised set of BSS Checks was introduced, following various discussions, decisions at stakeholder meetings have led to a full public consultation on some specific and very limited matters contained within the changes of the revised ECPs.

The matters being consulted on are the additional BSS Requirements, affecting boats with cast iron fitments on LPG systems and the new BSS Requirement for a service history for Wilderness Boats gas fridge flame traps.

The consultation also covers 20 various relaxations in the form of additional compliance options or reduced BSS Requirements. Full details of the changes and the consultation are set out in detail on this page [\[LINK\]](#).

Some Examiners have already provided comments to the consultation which are welcome, and we particularly recommend that if you have spotted any typographical or grammatical errors while you have been working with the interim ECPs, you are welcome to advise us via Question 5 in the consultation form on the link above.

### **Interim ECPs lifespan extended**

The immediate impact of going into consultation is that the interim ECPs are to be used until the conclusion of the consultation, which is likely to be the end of June, but it is dependent on the results of the consultation. We shall keep you informed.

### **Improvements have consequences**

The improvements in clarity and the additional information provided in the ECPs, together with an ongoing extensive in-service training programme of current Examiners and/or the improved new entrant programme, appears on early anecdotes to be making a difference to the consistent application of the BSS Requirements. If the evidence in the coming months proves this to be the case, then this is to be celebrated. It also means your hard work and dedication will be paying off to the benefit of boat users and others.

In the short-term however, there could be occasional situations whereby Examiners may newly discover an installation as non-compliant so requiring adjustments or work to meet compliance and improve safety.

Similarly, the greater clarity in the ECPs and the improved Examiner training may also address the relatively uncommon situation of any previous over-application the published BSS Requirements.

These scenarios, which can potentially be immediately confusing, even possibly upsetting, for boat owners, are signs that the information improvements and training are having beneficial effects, albeit we understand that it can be difficult for anyone in this situation, if or when it occurs. We have made statements concerning this specific effect on BSS Website including the consultation page, introducing the revised ECPs page, the Private Boat and Hire Boat Requirement's pages, as well as the pages mentioned in the paragraphs below.

While not guaranteed, it may help to prevent these scenarios if boat owners are encouraged to talk with their BSS Examiner and prepare well ahead of the examination by assessing their boat against the checks. This may ensure as far as possible the boat is ready for examination, hopefully pass first time and prevent unwelcome news and a potential return visit. We have helpful advice here.

<https://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/requirements-examinations-certification/arranging-the-examination/preparing-for-examination/>

The BSS Office will also be increasing our activity in communicating to owners these messages on preparing for Examination, post-consultation.

If you need any help communicating to boat owners on the implications of not achieving a BSS Certification, we provide more information for boat owners here

<https://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/requirements-examinations-certification/arranging-the-examination/if-your-boat-does-not-pass/>

## **COVID-19**

Following the latest Government advice, we reviewed and made some slight adjustments to the [COVID-19 advice](#) on 31 March. We will continue to monitor the situation closely. In the meantime, stay safe and well.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Tyson', written in a cursive style.

**Kevin Tyson**

**BSS Manager**