

Boat Safety Standards Setting Forum Smoke Alarm Consultation 2025-26

Section 6 – Responding to the consultation

We hope the consultation is presented so that you can understand and give due consideration to the various issues, the risks and the benefits. It will be helpful if you respond using the questions below.

The consultation is open to response until 17:00 on Thursday, 30 April 2026.

If you have trouble with the consultation form or a related query, please email the Standard Setting Forum secretariat at bss.enquiries@boatsafetyscheme.org

We will produce a summary of the views expressed and our response within two months of the closure of the consultation. The Forum will publish the conclusions on the Boat Safety Scheme (BSS) website www.boatsafetyscheme.org/about-us/consultations-reviews/

Questions & Response Form

Q1 – Do you support the general concept of introducing new mandatory Boat Safety Standards for the correct number of suitable working smoke alarm(s) in good condition to help reduce the risk of fire spreading, and where relevant, to protect invited guests on commercial and community boats (Non-private boats)?

Agree	
No – I do not agree	

Q2 – Do you agree that the BSS Check 6.5.1R is supportable (If the vessel has one or more accommodation space(s), is at least one suitable smoke alarm provided?)

Agree	
Agree, but suggest amending	
No – I do not agree	

Q3 – Considering the proposed BSS Check 6.5.2A (private boats) / X6.5.2R (Hire Boats) / C6.5.2R (Non-private Boats) regarding the audibility of installed smoke alarms by checking that they are fitted within 10m of each accommodation space that can be used for overnight stays. Do you agree that the proposed check is supportable?

Agree	
Agree, but suggest amending	
No – I do not agree	

Q4 – Do you agree that the Check 6.5.3R is supportable (Are smoke alarms of a suitable type and located at specified heights?)

Agree	
Agree, but suggest amending	
No – I do not agree	

Q5 – Do you agree that the Check 6.5.4R is supportable (Are smoke alarms in good condition?)

Agree	
Agree, but suggest amending	
No – I do not agree	

Q6 – If you have amends to suggest or any comments on the proposed format of the checks, please use this box to make your comments

Q7 – Do you have any comments to make about this consultation? Have we been clear? Have we given you the proper opportunity and adequate means to contribute your views?

Please use this box to make your comments.

Q8 - Can you see any further unintended consequences concerning introducing the proposals beyond those already mentioned in this consultation?

No further unintended consequences	
Yes I can see further unintended consequences	
Don't know	
Comment	

Q9 - Please tell us your name and indicate your sector of interest (for example boat owner, hire boat operator, community boat operator, navigation authority, marine trade, BSS Examiner, if other please state). Please let us know if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of a company, representative group or trade organisation.

Your name	
Sector of interest	
Company name (if applicable)	

Q10 - If responding for an organisation, may the organisation's name and its response be made public?

Agree	
No, not agreed	
Comment	

Q11 – If you are an individual respondent, are you happy for your anonymised responses to be made public?

Agree	
No, not agreed	
Comment	

Q12 - In regard to your responses, do your responses/comments relate to any particular area of the inland waterways*? It would be helpful if you would select one of the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> All inland waters / general	<input type="checkbox"/> East Yorkshire Waterways & Humber
<input type="checkbox"/> Avon Navigation Trust	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Basingstoke Canal Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake District National Parks
<input type="checkbox"/> Bridgewater Canal Company Ltd	<input type="checkbox"/> Loch Lomond
<input type="checkbox"/> Bristol Harbour	<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Level Commissioners
<input type="checkbox"/> Broads Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Port of London including PLA
<input type="checkbox"/> Canal & River Trust	<input type="checkbox"/> R. Wey - National Trust
<input type="checkbox"/> Chelmer & Blackwater - Essex Waterways	<input type="checkbox"/> Scottish Canals
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservators of the River Cam	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)

We may share the relevant results of the consultation with the specific navigation authority as appropriate.

Prepared by the Boat Safety Scheme Limited on behalf of the Boat Safety Standards Setting Forum. 31 December 2025.