

Boat Safety Scheme
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3 June 2024

Ref: 24-002

BSS EXAMINER NEWS

Dear Examiner

The topic covered in this newsletter are: -

- Welcome to the new BSS, the safety initiative with a long heritage
- BSS invoice correction
- News about Grahams
- Recruiting new team members
- Raising Technical Queries (Cases)

Welcome to 2024-25 with BSS Limited

Firstly, thank you for registering with the new Boat Safety Scheme Limited. We describe ourselves as '...a public safety initiative run as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee' and this harks back to the February 1995 memorandum of Understanding between the National Rivers Authority (now EA) and British Waterways (now the Trust) where the intended Scheme was required to '...operate financially on a breakeven basis.'

Next February, the BSS will be both one year old and 30 years old at the same time. There are a few stalwart BSS examiners who have been with us for most of that time, which is quite some achievement. Thank you to those long-stayers, as well as more recent joiners and everyone in-between, you are much appreciated.

Invoice correction this month

Regarding invoices and the need to operate on a breakeven basis, an audit this month revealed that we had not invoiced Examiners the correct amount for each BSS Certification report issued in April this year. This was due to human and technical error.

As per the information we gave you in March at the time of the 2024-25 registration announcement, we should have invoiced each BSSC issued at £60 plus VAT, when in fact the invoice showed a fee of £54.24 plus VAT and that was the rate for the last fiscal year.

However, it unfortunately means that there is some catching up to do, and we will add an additional £5.76 plus VAT for each of the April BSSCs you uploaded to the next invoice run, which is planned for the first week of June. Your invoice for May 2024 Certifications will show the additional figure as a clearly identified separate item.

We have made changes to prevent the recurrence. Also, so that we can be confident that the reporting system is correct, in the future, we will institute a triple check process before invoices are released to Examiners.

Please accept our sincere apologies for the mix up, it shouldn't have happened, we hope the measures outlined ensure it doesn't happen again. If you have any questions, please get in touch.

News of Two Grahams

Graham Watts - Returning to the theme of long service, Graham Watts, former BSS Manager and latterly part-time BSS Support Executive, who was seconded by the National Rivers Authority in 1996 to help the BSS, has now retired from the Scheme.

He participated in a comprehensive review of the Scheme in 2001; steered the BSS through wholesale change in the BSS Requirements for private boats in 2005; helped bring about the British Standard CoP for installing solid fuel stoves in boats in 2010; took the BSS through a review, consultation and implementation of new BSS Requirements for Hire Boats in 2015-17; and the same for carbon monoxide alarms for all classes of boats in 2019. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Graham Forbes – Graham joined the Scheme as Business and Technical manager in 2019 from the world of naval ships and he has left us this week to re-join that world. He brought great insight to the Scheme.

He helped two chairs of the BSS Technical Committee take the Scheme through a complete overhaul of the core BSS Examination Checking Procedures, as well as overseeing adjustments to the Hire Boat Requirements ECPs. He also carefully curated the embryonic Risk Register to become a fully-fledged and highly valuable tool central to the BSS Risk Management Process, which is at the heart of the Scheme's work. We wish him every success for the future.

New Recruitment

With the help of the Canal & River Trust, we have started some recruitment processes. We already have advertised an opportunity to join the BSS in the role of BSS Quality and Technical Manager. We are looking for a chartered engineer or equivalent to take on the role that includes project management, safety partner relationships, quality assurance and risk auditing.

If you know anyone who would be interested in this demanding but rewarding role based at home or a Trust hub with UK travel, please steer them to the job id 2024-7646 on the Canal & River Trust website <https://careers-canalrivertrust.icims.com/jobs/7646/marine-engineering-quality-%26-technical%20manager/job>

Stay tuned for more news for a replacement for Dave Washer who retired at the end of March, the new technical role will be advertised shortly.

And to help our aspirations to meet the many communications challenges we have in promoting public safety, helping boat owners to understand the BSS Requirements, and to improve our communications with you and all Examiners, we will also be advertising for a new communications officer.

We will advise you when these two vacancies go live. You may know people ideal for these roles.

Raising Technical Queries (Cases)

While the recruitment process is ongoing, the QAA consultants David and Justin will be answering your technical queries.

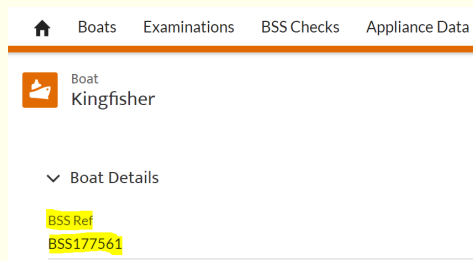
You can raise cases in the following ways

- by email to bss.office@boatsafetyScheme.org
- by phone 0333 202 1000
- by webform www.boatsafetyScheme.org/contact-us/contact-us-form/

How to help us to help you

If it is regarding a check – mention in your email, phone call or web-form

- the Check Item reference number e.g. 8.10.2A or X10.1.2R
- the ECP type e.g. private boat / HBR / N-PBR
- the boat name **and** BSS ref number (**or** Index Number, **or** Registration Number)



- the equipment make and model (where relevant)
- any exiting reference number eg BSSER / Case number CA-000..... / HBN number / PIP task / DtA etc

We will not be able to give you live technical support, or instantaneous decisions, but the David and Justin are prioritising this work and answers will be provided as soon as we are able to.

Best regards and keep safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Tyson'.

Kevin Tyson

Boat Safety Scheme Limited

The Boat Safety Scheme Limited is a public safety initiative run as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 15501423, registered office address c/o National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port South Pier Road Ellesmere Port Cheshire CH65 4FW.