



A Warm Welcome

In this January General Examiner Newsletter we cover:

- Examiner training in registration year 2025-26 - Gas Competency Update and Re-authorisation
- Photo ID renewal across the board
- Quality Assurance programme - New Field Assessments; New QA Assessor joining the team
- A call-out for volunteer app testers, examiner shadowing and featured articles
- Fees for BSS certification reports and registration
- News briefs - Standards Setting Forum Rep ballot; Charging boat owners for copy BSSC reports



Volunteer app testers needed

The development work on the promised app is underway. The plans are to launch the app in a phased roll-out this commencing autumn 2025.

Examiners help is vital to develop and refine the app, we are looking for a small group of volunteer testers to start in late spring / early summer. Full training will be given.

Please do let us know via email:

BSS.Office@boatsafetyscheme.org if you would like to volunteer to be part of the development and have the chance to feedback on the functionality of the app in the final stages.

Photo ID Updates for 2025-26

We have reviewed the photo ID images used on examination cards and the Examiner search facility on our website. To ensure all photos are up to date, we kindly ask all examiners to upload a new photograph taken in 2024 or early 2025.

A new self-service feature will be introduced in the Examiner Community to make this process easy and convenient. Full instructions on image quality requirements and how to upload your photo will be provided. Please ensure your updated photo is submitted by 31 March 2025 in order to successfully re-register.

Fees for BSS Certifications and Registration

The BSS **Certification fee** for registration year 2025-26 will be: **£76 plus VAT**. The new price will apply to all Certification Reports made online after 23:45 hrs on 31 March 2025.

Examiners annual registration fee 2025-26 - £300 plus VAT.





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Page 2

Pro-active Quality Assurance Programme

Pro-active Quality Assurance Assessments are support processes, they provide an opportunity to have a two-way honest discussion about your BSS Examiner activity. They identify any areas that need some strengthening in technique or processes. Everyone gets the opportunity to seek help where you feel less confident and to make suggestions or give feedback about how the BSS support you through its information, training, materials and services.

New Field Assessment Programme starts in 2025-26

A new Quality Assurance Field Assessment (QAFA) programme will start rolling out in 2025-26. We all need to be aiming for consistent Examinations, and we understand that undertaking BSS Examinations is challenging and detailed. The Field Assessment is here to support you to deliver the high standards we all aspire to.

The QAFA will be conducted by a BSS Quality Assurance Assessor (QAA) so we can jointly evaluate your approach to Examinations.

The focus is on ensuring adherence to BSS requirements, following examination procedures correctly, and accurately documenting findings. It's also an opportunity to confirm that professional conduct is upheld throughout the process.

Not only will this be a chance to assess your Examination field craft skills, but it's also an opportunity for a face-to-face with a BSS representative. You'll be able to ask questions, share feedback, and raise concerns you have about processes you believe could be improved. This collaborative approach ensures we continue to enhance the quality and integrity of the BSS together.

New QAA – Robert Burton

We are happy to advise Examiners that we have a new QAA joining us in the next few weeks. Robert is a marine consultant, surveyor and former BSS Examiner and has a solid understanding and context of the decisions you take. If you are contacted by Robert, we ask that you engage with him in a timely way.





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Mandatory Training 2025-26

Gas Competency Update and Re-authorisation

It is five years since the last round of LPG training and assessments, and quality assurance in this area of activity is important to the Scheme. This training programme will take place during the early autumn of 2025-26.

All examiners will complete an online module and attend training and assessment at Evesham (South Worcester College Group) We are still putting the details together, though it is likely to be a two-day event.

It will run as efficiently and effectively as possible and the fees will reflect what it costs us to provide the programme – current indications are that the fees will be around £500 plus VAT for each session with 10 Examiners participating in each group. Continued authorisation during the year will be reliant on the successful completion of the programme and assessment.

BSS Examination Recording App Training

Although not yet confirmed, there are current plans to launch the App in a phased roll-out from this coming autumn. Some Examiners may therefore be invited to take up the App in the 2025-26 registration period.

Prior to being able to use the App during Examinations, all Examiners will be required to complete associated online training modules. At this time, it is estimated that the modules will take between 8 and 16 hours to complete. The modules will be charged purely on a delivery cost recovery rate, estimated at this time as being no more than £100 plus VAT.

Volunteers Needed:

Shadowing examinations

We're looking for examiners who would be willing to volunteer to be shadowed or accompanied by new members of the BSS office team during an examination.

This invaluable experience will help our staff gain a deeper understanding of the day-to-day work and challenges faced by examiners, ultimately improving how we support you. If you're interested in taking part, please let us know – your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

A Day in the Life of an Examiner

We're looking for examiners who would like to be featured in a blog article about 'A Day in the Life of an Examiner.' This is a great opportunity to share your experiences, insights, and what a typical day looks like for you. If you're interested in taking part or would like to learn more, please get in touch:

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Page 4

Certification Replacements

We are considering introducing a fee for boat owners who request copies of Certification documents when the originals provided by Examiners have been misplaced.

To assist our community of boat owners and minimise the need for replacements, we encourage you to remind them of the importance of safely storing original documents when you provide the reports. Please be aware that fees for replacement copies may be introduced soon.

Standard Setting Forum (SSF) ballot update

There was strong interest for the ballot process with over half of the active Examiners placing a vote, with both candidates attracting solid support.

We will announce the new Examiner representative when the nominating navigation authority representatives of the Boat Safety Standards Setting Forum have ratified the results.

Kevin Tyson

BSS General Manager
Boat Safety Scheme Limited



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