



Canal &
River Trust

Keeping people, nature & history connected

Customer update 01/12/17

I am writing with regards to new and amended Boat Safety Scheme (BSS) requirements that were put in place from 1 April 2017 following a public consultation. Changes took place on 1 April 2017 that represent a product of the process of reviewing hirer safety and consulting with the hire trade, BSS examiners, navigation authorities and hirer representatives.

A revised set of requirements and modernised checking procedures since 1 April 2017 applied to hire craft. Hire craft in this case are any powered boats such as weekly and day hire vessels:

- let or hired under an arrangement, whether or not on a pre-contract basis;
- the subject of a bare boat charter arrangement;
- the subject of any form of third-party managed shared-use arrangement (including timeshare or shared ownership*).

*Note that third-party managed shared ownership boats can be considered as private boats for the purposes of the BSS examination, provided the shared owners are aware, or are made aware, of the boat's planned maintenance schedule and any other necessary safety-related works.

Existing non-private BSS Certifications will continue to be recognised, but hire operators are required to ensure their boats meet the revised requirements on the implementation date.

Hire operators should ensure their boats meet the new and amended BSS requirements. The revisions can be put in three categories:

- the introduction of six new BSS hire boat requirements.
- the formal adoption of the private boat checking procedures for hire boats including the 23 additional, or wider scope requirements introduced in recent years.
- the introduction of clarifications or improvements to five existing BSS hire boat requirements.

Further details about the changes can be found here: [https://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/boat-examination/hire-boats-\(2017\)/](https://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/boat-examination/hire-boats-(2017)/)

Technical support for any hire boat operator seeking information to help move their fleet to full compliance is available by using the BSS 'contact-us' page or call 0333 202 1000.

If you have any queries with regards to your Boating business please contact your local Business Boating Manager or Business Support team who's contact details are available [here](#).

Kind regards

Boating Business Team

01/12/17