

March 2022

Open Letter

To the Boat Safety Scheme and Navigation Authorities

Over the past 26 years the Boat Safety Scheme has made the waterways of Britain a much safer place to be and has saved many lives. This is a commendable achievement.

Since 2005, the Boat Safety Scheme has focused on the safety of the third person (waterways user) as opposed to the safety of the first person (the boat user). This is what Navigation Authorities require to mitigate their risk to waterways users. However, the demographic of waterways users has changed considerably in recent years, and so must the Boat Safety Scheme and Navigation Authorities.

We, the undersigned, would like a change in the Boat Safety Scheme focus to treat the first person with equal standing as the third person. We are concerned that guests aboard boats (third parties) are being exposed to risks perhaps only known to the owner (the first party). We are concerned about both chronic and acute exposure to all products of combustion, and that boaters are being unnecessarily exposed to obvious and avoidable danger.

We believe to fully protect all parties the advisory checks in section 8 of the BSS guidelines must become requirement checks. This is a small change that would significantly improve the safety of the boat owner and users. In the 21st century nobody should be exposed to leaking flue gases and inadequate ventilation.

We, the undersigned BSS examiners, feel strongly that we have to issue BSS certificates to vessels with dangerous flues and appliances aboard, and we urge immediate review of this situation. We welcome the opportunity to work with the BSS in moving boater safety forward.

Kind Regards

Mark Paris BSS examiner, Gas safe engineer

Tom Keeling BSS examiner, Gas safe engineer, Marine surveyor

Stephanie Trotter OBE (Mrs) President & Director of CO-Gas Safety

Ron Gooding BSS examiner, Gas safe engineer

Matt Miller	Gas safe engineer
Jim Lambeth in boats)	Trustee/directors CO-Gas Safety (co-author of the BS for solid fuel fires
Carl Thornton	BSS examiner
David Ball	BSS examiner
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Martin Ridge MCMS	BSS examiner, Marine surveyor IEng IMarEng MIMarEST MIET
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