



Boat Safety Scheme on the Broads

The Broads Authority is confident that the necessary powers to implement the Boat Safety Scheme (BSS) in the Broads will soon be obtained. This follows on from the launch of the final Boat Safety Scheme in January 2005, after months of consultation with boating, marine trade and technical groups.

Hire craft will have to comply with the original BSS. All private craft will have to comply with the revised requirements, which allow a greater degree of flexibility. A separate and different review of safety standards for other craft is underway by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

The new BSS will be introduced in stages, starting in April 2007.

Introductory date	Type and size of craft (block area)
1 April 2007	Hire craft over 30sqm Private motor craft of 21sqm and above
1 April 2008	All remaining hire craft Private motor craft of 11sqm and above
1 April 2009	Remaining private motor craft All private sailing craft

The BSS applies to all boats with engines and/or cooking, heating, lighting, refrigerating and other domestic appliances, which will need to pass an examination before they can be permitted to navigate the Broads.

The scheme will not apply to open boats propelled solely by outboard motors and not fitted with any of the above appliances.

Boat owners will have to pay authorised independent examiners to check their craft and issue certificates. Craft must be maintained to the standard of the BSS throughout the life of the certificate. Examiners' fees vary, so it may be worth getting several quotes. There are around 25 examiners who cover the Broads and most are willing to give advice about essential work, as is the BSS office. Lists of examiners are available from the Broads Authority office on 01603 610734, the BSS office on 01923 201278, and the BSS website, **www.boatsafetyscheme.com/searchforanexaminer**. The BSS office can also advise on the appeals process.

We recommend that owners get their boats examined as soon as possible. Those boats that do not have a valid BSS certificate by the appropriate introductory date will not be permitted to navigate the Broads. Please try to avoid getting caught out in a last minute rush.

BSS examinations will continue to include other safety checks, such as fire escape provision, flues for toxic fume spillage and power connections for potential for electrocution, etc. For a boat that fails any of these checks, the owner will be formally notified and advice will be offered.

The second edition of the Boat Safety Scheme Essential Guide has now been launched. The guide takes you step by step through the BSS, identifying hazards, approaches to risk reduction techniques, the legal requirements of the navigation authorities and the best practice standards to keep you and your crew safe when aboard or close to your boat. The Essential Guide is available from the BSS website: **www.boatsafetyscheme.com**, or by post from the BSS office, price £5.50 plus post and packaging.

For further clarification please contact the Broads Authority on 01603 610734 or www.broads-authority.gov.uk

For technical queries please contact 01923 201278 or www.boatsafetyscheme.com