



# What is BSS certification?

The Boat Safety Scheme (BSS) is a public safety initiative of the Canal & River Trust and the Environment Agency. The BSS aim is to ensure, through independent verification, that your boat meet the navigation authorities' minimum safety requirements.

These can be found at [www.boatsafetyscheme.org](http://www.boatsafetyscheme.org)

**Find out more at our website:**  
[brecknockboatservices.co.uk](http://brecknockboatservices.co.uk)

Once your boat has been examined you will be sent a report. This document reports the findings of your boat's BSS Examination which is to satisfy the question:

**'Did your boat meet all the applicable navigation or harbour authority minimum safety requirements on the day it was carried out?'**

The question has three possible answers:

- 1) **Yes** – In this event, the report can be considered a receipt-style certificate. It indicates that your boat met all the applicable minimum requirements on the day of examination. Take note of the expiry date in forward planning your next BSS examination.
- 2) **Yes**, but some advice checks did not pass – Minimum requirements were met however the examiner found advice check items that could not be passed. Although privately-owned boats do not have to comply with advice checks to achieve BSS certification, each one represents best-safety practice and meeting them all is highly recommended. Advice checks may be material to the vessel's insurance and the boat owner's duties under the law of occupier's liability.
- 3) **No** – One or more required checks have not passed and these items must be addressed to achieve BSS certification. Addressing issues linked to any checks' included in the report are highly recommended. Full details of what has failed, why and what must be achieved will be provided by the examiner.

**Warning notices:** These are issued when the examiner has found, or has cause to suspect, that your boat presents a significant and immediate risk. You should arrange for or carry out works to make the boat safe as soon as possible. The general nature of the risk and any checks associated with a Warning Notice will be identified by your examiner.

**The owner's on-going responsibility:** it is crucial to maintain the vessel in good condition in accordance with the safety requirements at all times – not just on the date of the examination. The validity of a BSS pass result may be affected and can be cancelled if the vessel is not properly maintained; and/or non-compliant alterations are made; or if a hire boat or other type of non-private boat is examined against the 'private boat' category of BSS checks.

A BSS examination is not a full condition survey, nor is it an indication that the vessel is fit for purpose. For example, it does not cover the condition of the hull or deck, the integrity of through-hull fittings or the stability of the boat and it isn't the same as having your boat serviced and doesn't check its general mechanical condition. Prospective boat purchasers are strongly advised to satisfy themselves about all aspects of a vessel's condition by commissioning a pre-purchase survey before committing themselves to becoming new owners.