

Guide to boat licensing and licence terms & conditions 2008: summary of main changes.

	TOPIC	CHANGE/ADDITION	REASON
General licence terms and conditions			
1.2	Boat length	Defined to include fenders etc.	As per definition within BW mooring permit. Avoids confusion
1.4	Houseboat	Defined	To improve clarity
2	Use of the boat	New schedule to clarify "use" for different licences	Ombudsman recommendation
4	Continuous Cruisers	Condition added to general terms which includes the reference to the Mooring Guidance for Continuous Cruisers	To improve clarity
5.2	Insurance	We no longer require sight of the insurance certificate but accept your declaration in good faith. We carry out checks to validate on a random sample basis	To reduce licence processing costs. We have assessed the risks and believe they are negligible.
		Insurance must be provided by a company regulated by the UK Financial Services Authority	To ensure that insurance is secure
6	Payment terms	Payment terms become part of the licence contract	Simplifies enforcement process
6.3	Late payment charge	A charge will be applied for the renewal of a licence that expired more than one month previously.	To strengthen the incentive to renew the licence promptly and thereby reduce our administration and enforcement costs.
7.1	Display of boat name and index number	Condition strengthened permitting BW to place a sticker on the boat or cover which must not be removed until the name and number are correctly displayed.	To support licence enforcement
8	Termination	A new term providing for immediate suspension of the licence without notice in cases of serious or persistent breach of the licence conditions, or where we reasonably believe that the breach may endanger the health and safety of other people.	To improve public safety.
10	Hire boat handover audit	To strengthen the requirement for those hiring out a boat to provide adequate training.	Public safety
16	Small passenger boats	Must comply with MCA small passenger boat code	Statutory requirement
Home mooring - Schedule 2			
		Expanded guidance on obtaining consent for a new end-of-garden mooring. A fee may be payable for assessing suitability of the site.	A change to reduce time spent in making assessments which are not subsequently followed up by the customer. We will make a separate announcement in due course
Mooring Information – Schedule 2			
	General guidance	Clarification of legal provisions and general principles. Time limits at visitor moorings.	To improve boaters' understanding and reduce risk of congestion at popular moorings.
	Amendment to mooring guidance for continuous cruisers	To qualify the concession which, in the event of exceptional circumstances preventing the boater from continuing the journey, allows a longer stay at a mooring. A charge may apply.	To ensure that continuous cruisers do not prevent leisure boaters from using short term and visitor mooring sites.
Navigation Rules – Schedule 5			
	Discharges to waterway	Use of phosphate-free soaps and detergents	To protect water quality
	Nuisance to others	Change to rule no. 4 to extend requirement not to cause nuisance to others generally along the line of the waterways (and not just on BW mooring sites)	Previous omissions highlighted by boater feedback
	Speeding	To discourage speeding and creation of turbulence.	

The Guide to Boat Licensing, including terms and conditions, is at www.britishwaterways.co.uk/licensing
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