



**British
Waterways
Board**

Conditions

RELATING TO THE USE OF PLEASURE BOATS AND HOUSEBOATS ON THE BOARD'S WATERWAYS

This document sets out the conditions upon which the Board's Pleasure Boat Licences, River Registration Certificates, Houseboat Certificates and Mooring Permits are issued.

Tables of fees and charges payable for such facilities are published separately.

Notes on hire cruisers and trip boats, businesses aboard boats, use of canal tunnels, sanitary stations and other matters are included herein.

All conditions and other information herein are subject to alterations and additions without notice.

British
Maritime
Trust



Conditions

RELATING TO THE USE OF
PLEASURE BOATS AND HOUSEBOATS
ON THE BOARD'S WATERWAYS

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Applications for the various licences, permits and certificates for boats should be made to the Board's Craft Licensing Supervisor. General boating enquiries and special consents required as described herein are dealt with by the Board's Area Amenity Assistants who also authorize hire cruiser and trip boat licences. The Licensing Office is at:

Willow Grange,
Church Road,
Watford, WD1 3QA,
Hertfordshire.

Telephone : Watford 26422

Office hours : 9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. daily
Mondays to Fridays
(excluding Bank Holidays).

Area Amenity Assistants work from the Board's Area Offices, the addresses of which are given on page 12.

GENERAL INTRODUCTORY NOTES

1. It is an offence, under the Board's Bye-laws, to use or keep a pleasure boat on the Board's artificial canals unless that boat is licensed by the Board. A pleasure boat used on the Board's river waterways listed below must be either registered with the Board in compliance with the British Waterways Act 1971 (as amended) or be already licensed for all the Board's inland waterways.
2. Different forms must be completed by applicants in respect of each of the following: Canal Pleasure Boat Licences, River Registration Certificates, Mooring Permits, Houseboat Certificates and Hire Boat Licences. Tables of fees payable are published separately. No licence, certificate or permit will be issued unless the correct form has been fully completed, signed and dated and the correct fee paid.
3. The rivers upon which a River Registration Certificate is valid are as follows:—
The River Avon Navigation from the tail of Hanham Lock to the tail of the bottom lock at Bath;
The Fossdyke Navigation;
The River Lee Navigation from Hertford to the River Thames at Limehouse and to the tail of Bow Locks;
The River Severn from Stourport to its junction with the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal at Gloucester;
The River Soar Navigation from its junction with the River Trent to West Bridge, Leicester;
The River Stort Navigation;
The River Trent Navigation from Cavendish Bridge, Shardlow, to Gainsborough Bridge (including the route via the Nottingham and Beeston Canals from Meadow Lane, Nottingham to Beeston Lock);
The River Ure Navigation from Ripon to Swale Nab;
The River Weaver Navigation from Winsford Bridge to its junction with the Manchester Ship Canal at Marsh Lock and at Delamere Dock;
The River Witham Navigation from Lincoln to below Grand Sluice Lock, Boston.
4. There are special reciprocal arrangements existing for the use of the Bridgewater Canal. In accordance with these, holders of the British Waterways Board's Licences may, without additional charge—but otherwise subject to the conditions which apply to pleasure boats licensed by the Manchester Ship Canal Company to do so—navigate the Bridgewater Canal for a period of up to seven consecutive days. Holders of Bridgewater Canal Pleasure Boat Licences may navigate during a period of seven consecutive days the Leigh Branch and as far as Burscough and the bottom of Blackburn Locks on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, from Preston Brook to the north end of Harecastle Tunnel on the Trent and Mersey Canal, from Middlewich to Barbridge Junction on the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal and between Hunt's Lock and Saltersford Locks only on the Weaver Navigation without further charge, subject to the British Waterways Board's Pleasure Boat Licensing Conditions, Byelaws and Regulations. Normal charges are payable by all boats for the use of the Anderton Lift.
5. Canoes, rowing boats and other unpowered vessels are prohibited from, or restricted in, using certain canal tunnels: details are given on Page 11.
6. Among rules to be observed by those in charge of Pleasure Boats are the General Canal Bye-laws and various other byelaws and the Board's Code of Conduct; and it is the duty of boat-owners or users to familiarise themselves with the requirements of these. This applies particularly to sound signals, lights and safety equipment.
7. Every owner is strongly advised to maintain appropriate insurance cover for his or her boat and for its use on the Board's waterways. This insurance should cover not only damage to the boat and loss of life or injury of its passengers and their property in it but should also safeguard the owner or other person in charge of the vessel in the event of accidents in which it might be claimed that the boat had caused, or contributed to, injury or damage to third parties or their property including that of the Navigation Authority. Insurance Companies or Brokers are always happy to advise on this matter.
8. The Conditions set out in this document apply only to rivers and canals in England and Wales. Application to use waterways owned or managed by the Board in Scotland should be made to the Engineer (Scotland), British Waterways Board, Old Basin Works, Applecross Street, Glasgow, C.4. Tel.: 041-332 6936.
9. Owners of vessels with high masts or aials are warned to beware of low level overhead electric power lines crossing the Board's waterways.

BRITISH WATERWAYS BOARD'S PLEASURE BOAT LICENSING CONDITIONS

All licences in respect of pleasure vessels are issued by the British Waterways Board ("The Board") subject to the following conditions:

1. The owner and any person in charge of a licensed vessel shall at all times comply with the Acts, Byelaws and Regulations from time to time in force on the Board's waterways and with any directions given by the Board or by an authorised person on their behalf. Particular attention is called to the requirements of having a boat's name and licence clearly displayed at all times.

2. Notice of any change in the name of a licensed pleasure vessel, or in the name or address of its owner, or change of usage, must be given to the Board's Craft Licensing Supervisor at Watford promptly. Licences are not transferable between one boat and another and refunds of licence fees will only be made upon the Board being satisfied that the vessel in question has been relicensed by the new owner or has been removed altogether from the Board's waterways.
3. It is an offence not to display a valid licence on a pleasure boat on a canal so as to be clearly visible from the outside at all times. Owners are therefore reminded that licences should be so positioned that when boat-covers are fitted, the licence is still visible without having to remove the cover. Licences should be affixed on the port side of the boat, preferably facing forward or aft. If a licence is lost, a duplicate will be issued by the Board on payment of a fee of £1.00.
4. A licence is revocable by the Board at any time without notice. If the licence is revoked for any reason other than the non-compliance by the owner of the boat with any of these Conditions or the Byelaws or Regulations of the Board, a proportion of the fee paid in respect of the licence will be refunded.
5. On the determination of the licence, whether by revocation or expiration of time, unless the boat is re-licensed by the Board the owner shall forthwith navigate or otherwise remove the vessel out of or from the Board's canals or waterways. In case of default by the owner, the Board shall be at liberty to remove the vessel to such place as they may in their absolute discretion think fit and shall in no circumstances be liable for any damage, injury or loss thereby caused.
6. A boat licensed by the Board as a pleasure boat shall not be occupied as a permanent residence while stationed on the Board's waterways.
7. The vessel shall be moored only at places where mooring is permitted by the Board. The Board may remove (or require the owner to remove) any vessel moored elsewhere or found to have broken loose from moorings or may re-moor it and the Board shall not be liable for any loss or damage arising therefrom, however caused.
8. The owner shall be absolutely responsible for any damage or obstruction caused by the vessel (whether by the act or default of the owner, his servants or agents or not) to the canal or waterway or to any fixed or movable property of the Board thereon.
9. The licensee shall be responsible for and release and indemnify the Board their servants and agents from and against all liability for personal injury (whether fatal or otherwise) loss of or damage to property arising out of or resulting from dangers due to the state of the Board's premises including the waterway its structure and the towing path however such dangers may have been caused.
10. The Board shall in no circumstances be liable for the consequences of any stoppage of navigation or delay to pleasure boats however arising.
11. The owner shall at all times keep his vessel in a sound and watertight condition and so as not to be prejudicial to the amenities of the neighbourhood or liable to cause damage to other vessels or to the Board's property or apparatus. He shall also ensure that his vessel complies, within the periods of time specified by the Board, with any standards relating to the construction, equipment and maintenance of pleasure boats which shall be prescribed by the Board.
12. The Board reserve the right to inspect any vessel before the grant or renewal of a licence.
13. All persons in charge of pleasure boats shall dispose of sewage and rubbish in accordance with the requirements of any local authority from time to time in force and in a manner satisfactory to the Board. They shall comply with any other requirements of local authorities (which expression shall here include Water Authorities) relating to the use of pleasure boats on the Board's waterways. Any information required by the Board as to the sanitary appliances fitted in a boat shall be supplied by the licensee thereof.
14. All rates, taxes, assessments and outgoings imposed or charged upon the vessel shall be paid by the owner.
15. The licence authorises the use of the boat only on those waterways shown as available for pleasure boats in the printed list issued from time to time by the Board, a copy of which may be obtained from the Craft Licensing Supervisor or from Area Amenity Assistants and which is normally supplied with the licence.
16. Canal water supplies are limited. Boats shall on every possible occasion share locks up to their capacity. There is no right to the exclusive use of a lock under any circumstance.
17. All tenders or other small boats, inflatable dinghies or canoes used in connection with pleasure boats on the Board's canals must be separately licenced at the appropriate rate while in the water.
18. The Board may at their sole discretion issue special licences subject to certain restrictions, such as to availability, dimensions of pleasure boats using any particular waterway, the use of locks by boats capable of being carried around them, the use of canal tunnels or the purposes for which boats may be used.
19. No person shall let a pleasure boat for hire unless he shall first have obtained from the Board a Hire Boat Licence.
20. Upon receiving from the Board notice so to do, every owner of a pleasure boat shall exhibit at all times thereafter on the outside thereof, on both sides of the bow, the index mark and number which the Board has assigned to that vessel in accordance with General Canal Byelaw 5 (1) (i) or the British Waterways Act 1971, Section 9.

RIVER REGISTRATION—BRITISH WATERWAYS ACTS, 1971 - 1975

Attention is particularly drawn to the following provisions of these Acts :

1. Marking of Pleasure Boats

Every powered pleasure boat registered under the Act of 1971 shall have its name or number conspicuously painted or otherwise displayed on the outside thereof, in letters of such colour, character and size as will be clearly legible at all times. Pleasure boats registered under the Merchant Shipping Act 1894 shall comply with the requirements in this respect as laid down in that Act instead of those required by the British Waterways Act 1971. Every unpowered pleasure boat registered under the British Waterways Act 1971 shall have its name or number conspicuously painted or otherwise displayed in the same manner as a powered pleasure boat. The Board may, however, approve a mark, name or number displayed on the sail or such other part as may be approved by the Board as sufficient individual means of identification of such unpowered pleasure boat.

Except in the case of those unpowered pleasure boats where the mark, name or number may be displayed on the sail or such other part as may be approved by the Board, all powered and unpowered pleasure boats must display the appropriate river registration certificate preferably on the port side, facing forward or aft, and plaque issued by the Board and containing the official number or mark.

2. Transfer of Pleasure Boats

Upon every transfer of ownership of a pleasure boat in respect of which a pleasure boat certificate is in force, the transferor shall, and the transferee may, forthwith give notice to the Board of such transfer. Until such notice shall have been given, the transferor shall be deemed to be the owner of such pleasure boat.

3. Pollution

Applicants are required to comply with any anti-pollution legislation or Byelaws which are in force at the time of application or which may come into force before the expiration of the period covered by a pleasure boat certificate. This legislation will prohibit the discharge of polluting matter from sanitary appliances fitted in boats used on any waters (including the Board's waters) within the areas defined. The Board require all applicants for River Registration Certificates to give details of any sanitary appliances fitted into the boats in question.

4. Tenders

Owners of pleasure boats having a tender or dinghy are reminded that such small boats are required to be registered for use on the Board's river navigations to which the Acts of 1971 to 1975 apply. The special reduced charge payable is shown in the current table of river registration fees issued separately.

BRITISH WATERWAYS BOARD'S MOORINGS

1. The Board offers moorings at a number of places and Mooring Permits are issued upon payment of the appropriate charge. **It should be particularly noted that the minimum period for which a mooring permit will be issued is two months.** Mooring against any property of the Board (including towing paths) other than the sites on the Board's published lists requires *special permission in advance* at all times and will be charged for at the rate which will be stated when the permission is granted, such rate being not less than that of a Class B site. Before arranging to moor to property not owned by the Board, the Board's consent will be required if the boat is in the Board's water although attached to privately-owned land and an appropriate fee will be charged by the Board.
2. To facilitate cruising, no charge will normally be made, except at certain named sites, when boats stay for up to fourteen consecutive days during any period of two calendar months within any one parish at British Waterways Board's temporary moorings and at other authorised locations owned by the Board, but boats regularly based at a site and paying fees to the Board for moorings there will, of course, have priority. Please see Para. 10 below, under "Class B".
3. All vessels moored at the Board's moorings must be currently licensed (or registered under the British Waterways Acts 1971 - 1975 where such registration is valid) except that vessels not so licensed may be admitted to West Stockwith Yacht Basin on payment of a special licence fee and of lockage charges when applicable. Special arrangements exist for vessels moored in the canal basins at Stourport and Diglis (Worcester): they must have pleasure boat licences or special licences. Special arrangements also apply at Glasson Basin : further details are given at Para. 10 below.
4. Board-owned mooring berths are scarce. Owners are therefore advised to pay well in advance for their berths. Once a mooring permit has expired, the Board will relet the berth to the next applicant on the waiting list for that site.
5. Refuse storage receptacles are cleared as often as arrangements with local authorities and others make practicable. At some places there are facilities for burning combustible rubbish. Please do all you can in this and other ways to save the receptacles from being overloaded during the busy season. Oil and paint tins, pieces of boat cabin and other non-domestic refuse must not be put into B.W.B. dustbins—otherwise local authorities can refuse to empty them. Please keep your mooring site tidy by immediately taking such rubbish to your local authority's Civic Amenities tip.
6. A mooring permit only authorises a boat to be moored at the location shown on the permit; *it does not give a right to a specific berth except where such is stated.* It also does not permit the use of the land for any purpose other than access to and from the boat and the facilities provided on the site by the Board.

7. Owners must ensure that :
 - (a) their boats are properly moored with head and stern lines made fast to adequate mooring stakes where no permanent rings or bollards exist;
 - (b) their boats are not obstructing navigation or the use by others of the towing paths or banks and facilities provided by the Board; or causing damage to other boats lawfully moored nearby;
 - (c) they cause no annoyance or nuisance to neighbours or those using boats nearby through noisy generating sets, pumps, radio sets, tape or record players, electric tools, inadequately silenced engine exhaust gases or by other means;
 - (d) their mooring permit is clearly displayed at all times.
8. No works of any description may be carried out by permit holders to the Board's mooring sites or to any other mooring places on the Board's property without the Board's written consent.
9. The charges levied for the use of most of these sites are determined by their classification. Details of the current rates for each class are obtainable from the Board's Licensing and Area Offices.
10. The following notes broadly indicate the structure of the classification system.

Special Class 1 These sites are all in the London area at present.

Special Class 2 These sites are located in or adjoining major towns or are yacht basins or other developments where there is a demand for moorings for deep-draughted vessels. At West Stock-with Yacht Basin a special licence fee is payable for vessels entering from the River Trent if they are not already licensed by the Board.

Special Class 3 At these sites a fixed charge is made, irrespective of the length of the boat concerned, and mooring permits are issued only on an annual basis.

Special Class 4 This rate is levied at Glasson Basin for moorings for periods of 7 to 12 months. In addition, lockage fees are levied for passages in each direction between the Basin and Glasson Dock. These fees may be paid at the time of passage to the resident lock-keeper; or paid in advance to the Lancaster Section Inspector at his office at Aldcliffe Rd., Lancaster: his receipt must be produced to the lock-keeper before entering the basin. The fees payable are set out in the Board's Table of Charges issued by the Craft Licensing Supervisor from time to time. Pleasure Boat Licences of a special type are required in compliance with the Board's Byelaws for boats which cannot proceed beyond the basin into the Glasson Branch of the Lancaster Canal.

Special Class 5 This is the rate charged for similar facilities at Glasson Basin for moorings for periods of 2 to 6 months. Lockage fees, as above, are also levied.

Special Classes 6 These categories apply to moorings used by houseboats registered by the Board under the provisions of the British Waterways Acts 1971 - 1975.

Class A These sites are either in popular or convenient places, or have facilities provided for boat-owners in addition to mooring berths only.

Class B This class includes all permanent mooring sites on land controlled by the Board which are not stated to be in the categories above; and moorings against all other land in the Board's occupation (including towing paths and offside banks) whether or not mooring there has been specifically authorised by the Board. The temporary mooring concession for cruising boats, set out in Paragraph 2 above, applies only to sites in this category.

Class C These sites are those where the boats concerned are moored so that they are floating over the Board's unlet land covered by water and the bank adjacent is either (a) not in the Board's occupation or (b) occupied by the Board but access to it by land has to be granted to the boat-owner by another party. The rate charged is a proportion of the published Class B rate.
11. The facility of free use by cruising boats of temporary or short-term mooring sites as set out in Paragraph 2 above does not apply to certain moorings provided for pleasure boats visiting the Board's system such as at Grand Sluice Lock, Boston. The special fees levied are collected by local staff (or agents) of the Board at such places and special permits (incorporating receipts) are issued.
12. The following sites are managed on the Board's behalf by the firms stated, to whom applications for berths should be made direct.

Enquiries to:

Grand Union Canal
(Regent's Canal)

Blomfield Road, Paddington

Turner Marinas Ltd.,
57 Fitzroy Road,
London, NW1 8TS
(Tel. 01-722 9806)

Kennet and Avon Canal

Newbury Lock

John Gould (Waterways) Ltd.,
Newbury Lock,
Newbury, Berks.
(Tel. Newbury 1548)

Lancaster Canal

Swillbrook (along towing path)

The Jolly Roger Boating Haven,
Swillbrook,
Catforth,
Preston, PR4 0HE.
(Tel. Catforth 232)

NOTES ON HOUSEBOATS

1. It is an offence, under the British Waterways Act 1971, to use a vessel as a houseboat without a valid Houseboat Certificate issued by the Board. An application for such a certificate (made on the special form obtained only from the Board's Licensing Office) must indicate the *exact* site at which the vessel will normally be used residentially. Any houseboat certificate issued will only be valid for residential use at that site. The certificate does, however, operate as a normal canal pleasure boat licence for periods spent cruising.
2. The use of sites for the stationing of houseboats is subject to many restrictions, including town planning control, and the availability of residential moorings is therefore very limited. Unless there are special reasons for so doing, the Board will not greatly increase the number of houseboats on their canals.
3. All enquiries should be made to the Board's Craft Licensing Supervisor in person. Comments made or undertakings given by other persons about the availability of a residential mooring or about the issue of a houseboat certificate will not be treated as committing the Board in any way.
4. Houseboats moored at any site owned by the Board require both a houseboat certificate and a houseboat mooring permit. These will only be issued together and to cover the same period.
5. For a vessel proposed to be moored at a site not owned by the Board, evidence must be produced by the applicant to show the availability of a mooring for the whole of the period of currency of the certificate for which application is being made. The Board will satisfy themselves of the availability and suitability of the mooring before any certificate is issued.
6. Where a registered houseboat has to be moved temporarily at the Board's request for any reason, the certificate will be transferred for a defined period to another approved site.
7. Houseboat certificates expire not later than the 31st December next after the date of the certificate, although an applicant for a houseboat certificate may, at his option, pay three times the amount of the prescribed charge whereupon the certificate will expire on the third thirty-first day of December next after the date thereof.
8. Houseboat certificates will normally be transferred to new owners upon payment of a fee except at certain sites where undertakings have been given to the local authority concerned that no change in occupancy will be permitted. Each case should be referred to the Board's Craft Licensing Supervisor **before any undertaking to effect a transfer of ownership is given.**
Prospective purchasers of houseboats are expressly warned not to buy such vessels for residential use without thoroughly investigating the legality of such use and the approval by the Board of the boat and its mooring. Although Houseboat Certificates are transferable, there is no obligation upon the Board to renew them when they expire.
9. The issue of a valuation proposal or rating demand by a local or other authority in respect of a houseboat or its mooring should not be taken as committing the local authority to approval of the residential occupation of the vessel at that mooring.
10. Particulars of houseboat mooring charges at the Board's sites where houseboats are permitted will be given by the Craft Licensing Supervisor or the local Area Amenity Assistant upon application to him.

BRITISH WATERWAYS BOARD'S HOUSEBOAT CONDITIONS

Houseboat Certificates are issued by the Board subject to the following conditions:

1. A houseboat shall not be moored, placed, kept or maintained in the Board's waterways (even although it may have been there prior to the passing of the British Waterways Act 1971) unless a current houseboat certificate is in force in respect of such houseboat.
2. The issue of a houseboat certificate shall not prejudice or affect any obligation existing under any enactment to obtain the consent of any local authority within whose area the houseboat is, or is proposed to be, moored, placed, kept or maintained.
3. If any houseboat shall be moored, placed, kept or maintained contrary to the provisions of Condition 1 above, or is in contravention of any condition contained in the houseboat certificate in respect of such houseboat, the Board may by notice in writing as set out in Condition 4 below, require the person having control of that houseboat to remove or to demolish it and to clear and restore the surface of that part of the inland waterway from or on which the houseboat has been removed or demolished or to comply with the conditions imposed. The expression "inland waterway" means any canal or inland navigation belonging to or under the control of the Board and includes any works, lands or premises belonging to or under the control of the Board and held or used by them in connection with such control or inland navigation.
4. Any such notice shall be given by leaving it or sending it in a pre-paid letter addressed to the person having control of such houseboat at his normal or last known residence, or if necessary by exhibiting the notice in a conspicuous position on such houseboat and shall specify the period within which such removal or demolition and clearance and restoration or compliance with the condition shall be completed.

5. If any person fails without reasonable cause to comply with any notice given by the Board under the provisions of Condition 3 above, he shall be liable, upon conviction, to a fine not exceeding £50 and the Board may at any time after the expiration of the period specified in such notice remove or demolish the houseboat referred to in the notice and clear and restore the surface of the inland waterway disturbed by such removal or demolition.
6. The Board are also entitled to recover the costs or expenses reasonably incurred by them in or in connection with the removal, demolition or clearance of the houseboat as well as to retain it or the material thereof; they may and shall if so required by the owner sell or dispose of the houseboat or such materials and after recovering their costs and expenses pass any amount exceeding the amount of the costs and expenses incurred by the Board in or in connection with such removal or demolition or clearance and restoration of the surface, if any, to the owner of such houseboat.
7. The owner and any other persons in charge of a houseboat shall at all times comply with the Acts, Byelaws and Regulations from time to time in force on the Board's waterways and with any directions given by the Board or by an authorised person on their behalf. Attention is particularly called to the requirement of having a boat's name clearly displayed so as to be visible from the outside thereof at all times.
8. Details of any change in the name of the houseboat, or in the name or address of the owner or of change of use of the boat shall be given to the Board's Craft Licensing Supervisor at Watford immediately such change occurs.
9. The houseboat certificate and any necessary mooring permit shall be clearly displayed on the houseboat so as to be visible from the outside thereof at all times. If lost, duplicates will be issued upon payment of £1.00 for each document.
10. On the determination of the houseboat certificate whether by revocation or expiration of time unless the boat is re-registered as a houseboat, or is licensed or registered by the Board for use other than as a houseboat, the owner shall forthwith navigate or otherwise remove it out of or from the Board's canals or waterways. In case of default by the owner the Board shall be at liberty to remove the boat to such place as they may in their absolute discretion think fit and shall in no circumstances be liable for any damage injury or loss thereby caused.
11. The houseboat when cruising shall be subject in all respects to the Board's Pleasure Boat Licensing Conditions.
12. The owner shall be absolutely responsible for any damage or obstruction caused by his houseboat (whether by the act or default of the owner his servants or agents or not) to the canal or waterway or to any fixed or movable property of the Board thereon.
13. The holder of a houseboat certificate shall be responsible for and release and indemnify the Board their servants and agents from and against all liability for personal injury (whether fatal or otherwise) loss of or damage to property arising out of or resulting from dangers due to the state of the Board's premises including the waterway its structure and the towing path however such dangers may have been caused.
14. The Board shall in no circumstances be liable for the consequences of any stoppage of navigation or delay to houseboats however arising.
15. The owner shall at all times keep his houseboat in a sound and watertight condition and so as not to be prejudicial to the amenities of the neighbourhood or liable to cause damage to other vessels or to the Board's property or apparatus.
16. The Board reserve the right to inspect any vessel before the issue or renewal of a houseboat certificate.
17. All persons in charge of houseboats shall dispose of sewage and rubbish in accordance with the requirements from time to time in force of any local authority and in a manner satisfactory to the Board. They shall comply with any other requirements or recommendations of local authorities relating to the use of houseboats on waterways within their areas. The expression "local authority" shall include a Water Authority. No vessel which has a sanitary appliance on board discharging, or capable of discharging, sewage into the Board's waterways will be registered by the Board as a houseboat and applicants must satisfy the Board on this matter and show that proper facilities for disposing of sewage arising from the boat are available for his use.
18. All rates, taxes, assessments and outgoings imposed or charged upon the houseboat or its moorings (if these are let to the houseboat owner by the Board or are the subject of a Mooring Permit) shall be paid by the owner of the houseboat.
19. The holder of a houseboat certificate shall comply with any requirement of and any limitations imposed by the local authority for the area in which the houseboat is moored as to the number of persons permitted to live on board. The holder shall also obtain and comply with any permission consent or approval required under the Town and Country Planning Acts or any other enactment controlling the use or condition of the houseboat.
20. Upon receiving from the Board notice so to do, every owner of a houseboat shall exhibit at all times thereafter on the outside thereof, on both sides of the bow, the index mark and number which the Board has assigned to that vessel.

HIRE BOAT LICENCES

1. The Board's Pleasure Boat Licensing Conditions apply to all Hire Boat Licences issued by the Board. The following additional Conditions also apply.
2. All hire boat licences are issued on an annual basis commencing from 1st March in each year. The expression "hire boat" includes boats let out on holiday hire (whether with a professional crew or not), passenger trip boats, hotel boats and day hire boats of every description and the licence is valid on all the Board's waterways (including rivers where registration under the British Waterways Act 1971 is in force) set out in the current list issued by the Board of waterways to which the Board's Pleasure Boat Licences apply. The issue of hire boat licences is strictly controlled.
3. They will not be issued or renewed unless the applicant can show that he has premises satisfactory to the Board from which to conduct his business. Consent will not be given to the use of the Board's listed mooring sites or towing paths for the hiring-out of boats under any circumstances. Every application must be approved by the local Area Amenity Assistant before a licence will be issued. Hire boats should not be ordered unless the prospective operator has the Board's agreement in writing to the issue of the required licences.
4. Licences for passenger trip boats are only issued for areas where satisfactory services are not already provided. The special agreements required to pick up and set down passengers on the Board's premises are dealt with by the Board's local Area Amenity Assistant.
5. The charges for hire boats operating exclusively on river navigations (to which the British Waterways Acts 1971 - 1975 apply) are set out in the Board's Tables of Charges under "River Registration Certificates". These certificates are not valid on the Board's canals.
6. The Board's Byelaws for the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal and River Severn Navigation make a separate licence necessary for all hire boats operating on those waterways. Details of these special licences are available from the Board's Area Amenity Assistant at the Dock Office, Gloucester (Tel: 25524).
7. It is an offence under the Merchant Shipping Act 1894 to use a vessel on any waterway (including the Board's canals) to carry more than twelve persons (exclusive of necessary crew) unless a Passenger Certificate is in force which has been obtained from the Department of Trade. The Board will not issue licences for such passenger vessels unless the appropriate Passenger Certificate has first been obtained. Details of survey requirements can be obtained from the nearest Mercantile Marine Survey Office or from the Department of Trade.
8. Every powered or towed boat licensed for hire shall have the name and the address or telephone number of the licensee displayed on both sides of it so as to be visible at all times at a distance of 20 yards.
9. The owner of every powered hire boat, unless he has obtained for it a Passenger Certificate, referred to in Condition 7 above, shall supply and maintain in good condition aboard that boat, while in use by the public, the following equipment:
 - (a) a lifebuoy, of a standard acceptable to the Department of Trade's Surveyors, positioned where the helmsman can reach it without leaving the wheel or tiller;
 - (b) a boarding plank of sufficient width, of adequate length for the navigations upon which the boat is to be used and of suitable thickness and strength;
 - (c) a short boathook suitable for clearing fouled propellers; and
 - (d) an additional shaft or boathook of adequate length and strength for use on the waterway upon which the boat is to be used.
10. On every occasion that a boat is let out on hire from its base the owner or his agent shall ensure that the hirer and at least one other member of the hirer's party are competent to navigate the boat safely on the waterways upon which the hirer intends to cruise; and that the hirer and at least one other person on board are aware of the location of all safety equipment and how it should be used in an emergency.
11. The owner or his agent shall offer the hirer and all members of his party the use, free of extra charge, of properly maintained personal buoyancy aids.
12. In respect of each boat licensed for hire the owner shall maintain a record, satisfactory to the Board, of inspections of the boat, its equipment and gear and of the works of maintenance and repair undertaken to the boat since the issue of the last licence by the Board.

FLOATING RESTAURANTS, SHOPS, ETC.

Special consent is required of the Board under the General Canal Byelaws to use a boat as a club, shop, store, workshop or restaurant. Applications should be made in writing, giving full details of the proposal, to the Board's Area Amenity Assistant for the area where the vessel is to be moored. Unless the vessel in question is to move constantly about the Board's system, planning permission in respect of the moorings for the vessel will normally be required. Any consent given by the Board will be by means of a Licence, issued subject to conditions and the payment of an annual fee.

CARRIAGE OF FREIGHT

Vessels which are used as holiday cruisers during the season but are used for the carriage of freight during winter months, may carry cargo on all the waterways to which the Board's Commercial Vessel Licence applies by using a valid Hire Boat Licence and without the payment of additional fees for a Commercial Vessel Licence. The Commercial Carrying Conditions laid down by the Board will, in such cases, apply. The Board's express consent is required to sell goods or load or discharge cargo over the Board's lands or towing paths and operators will be required to enter into a formal agreement with the Board, details of which will be given by the local Area Amenity Assistant.

PASSAGE OF PLEASURE BOATS THROUGH CERTAIN TUNNELS

No canoe, rowing boat, punt or other small unpowered vessel (except one being safely towed by a powered boat and fitted with satisfactory tunnel lights and safety appliances) shall be navigated into or through any of the following tunnels:

CANAL	NAME OF TUNNEL	LENGTH	
		METRES	YARDS
B.C.N. (Dudley No. 1 Line)	Dudley	2900	3172
B.C.N. (New Main Line)	Gosty Hill	509	557
B.C.N. (Netherton Tunnel Br.)	Netherton	2768	3027
Grand Union (Main Line)	Blisworth	2794	3056
	Braunston	1867	2042
Grand Union (Regent's)	Islington	878	960
	Maida Hill	249	272
Peak Forest	Hyde Bank	282	308
Trent and Mersey	Barnton	523	572
	Harecastle	2669	2919
	Preston Brook	1133	1239
	Saltersford	388	424
Worcester and Birmingham	Shortwood	561	613
	Tardebigge	530	580
	West Hill	2493	2726

Boats, other than those electrically propelled, are not permitted to run their engines in Dudley Tunnel (2900m. 3,172 yds.) on the Birmingham Canal Navigations.

The following tunnels may be used by small unpowered boats (including canoes) subject to the conditions set out below :—

CANAL	NAME OF TUNNEL	LENGTH	
		METRES	YARDS
Ashby	Snarestone	229	250
Brecon and Abergavenny	Ashford	343	375
Caldon	Frogghall	69	76
Grand Union (Leicester Branch)	Crick	1397	1528
	Husband's Bosworth	1066	1166
	Saddington	805	880
Grand Union (Birmingham Line)	Shrewley	396	433
Kennet and Avon	Savernake	459	502
Leeds and Liverpool	Foulridge	1500	1640
	Gannow	511	559
Llangollen	Chirk	420	459
	Ellesmere	80	87
	Whitehouses	175	191
Peak Forest	Woodley	161	176
Stratford-upon-Avon	Brandwood (King's Norton)	322	352
Worcester and Birmingham	Dunhampstead	216	236

Conditions applying :

1. Canoes shall only pass into or through these tunnels in groups of not less than three, nor more than six, with a skilled canoeist in overall charge.
2. All canoeists shall be able to swim efficiently.
3. All occupants of small boats and canoes shall wear life jackets.
4. All small boats and canoes shall have adequate buoyancy within them.
5. All small boats and canoes shall be fitted with an adequate white light *fixed to the vessel* and showing ahead.
6. In each boat shall be a waterproof torch and each occupant shall have a suitable whistle, attached to his body by a substantial lanyard.

The following tunnels may be used by canoeists and are not subject to the special conditions above. :—

CANAL	NAME OF TUNNEL	LENGTH	
		METRES	YARDS
Birmingham	Coseley	329	360
Birmingham and Fazeley	Curdworth	52	57
Chesterfield	Drakeholes	134	147
Kennet and Avon	Bath No. 1	54	59
	Bath No. 2	50	55
Oxford	Newbold	187	205
Shropshire Union	Cowley	74	81
Staffordshire and Worcestershire	Cookley	59	65
Worcester & Birmingham	Edgbaston	96	105

CRUISING INFORMATION

Each year the Board publish two special circulars, covering the summer and winter periods respectively, dealing with lock and bridge opening arrangements and similar facilities. Copies are obtainable, free of charge, from the Board's Area Amenity Assistants.

Annual lists of all scheduled stoppages, published prior to the New Year, can also be obtained from the Area Amenity Assistants, but are normally issued with licences.

Details of unscheduled emergency stoppages which become necessary can be obtained from local Area Engineers whose addresses are the same of those of Area Amenity Assistants. Always check that your proposed route is clear of stoppages before beginning your trip. Emergencies do occur and it takes a considerable time to erect signs warning of a stoppage at all junctions where a diversion is possible. Latest information outside working hours can be obtained by dialling 01-723 8485 — "Canalphone".

SANITARY STATIONS

All the Board's sanitary stations and similar facilities provided at some boatyards and clubs' moorings are fitted with a standard cylinder lock which can be opened only by a special key. These are obtainable from most boatyards and clubs, from Area Amenity Assistants, or from the Amenity Activities Officer (Operations) at Watford (price 50p), who can supply a list showing the location of all sanitary stations. Please report any defects in these facilities to the nearest Area or Section Office of the Board.

LICENSING CONCESSIONS ON CERTAIN WATERWAYS

To encourage cruising on the following lengths of "Remainder" waterways not connected to the main part of the Board's system by a navigable canal or river, the deduction shown — which is subject to annual review — is made from the normal Pleasure Boat or Hire Boat Licence fees for boats of the types described if used *only* on such lengths of the following canals:

Kennet and Avon	50% for powered boats only between Crofton and Devizes, Semington and Bradford, and Bath and Claverton Mill.
Bridgwater and Taunton Canal	25% for powered or unpowered boats.

In addition, certain concessions are allowed from time to time in respect of other waterways. Details will gladly be given by any Area Amenity Assistant or by the Board's Craft Licensing Supervisor.

Special arrangements — which are subject to annual review — are also in force for boats operated by Canal Societies, the whole of the profits from which are used for restoring the Board's "Remainder" canals on which the boats are based. The Craft Licensing Supervisor or local Area Amenity Assistant will advise on all such matters.

British Waterways Board's Area Offices, at which Area Amenity Assistants are stationed, are located as follows. In addition to dealing with pleasure boating, they can assist with enquiries about all amenity matters, including angling arrangements.

CASTLEFORD

Lock Lane, Castleford WF10 2LH
Tel.: Castleford 4351

NORTHWICH

Navigation Road, Northwich, CW8 1BH
Tel.: Northwich 74321

NOTTINGHAM

24 Meadow Lane, Nottingham NG2 3HL
Tel.: Nottingham 862411

WIGAN

Swan Meadow Road, Wigan WN3 5BB
Tel.: Wigan 42239

BIRMINGHAM

Reservoir House, Icknield Port Road
Birmingham B16 0AA
Tel.: 021-454-7091

GLOUCESTER

Dock Office, Gloucester GL1 2EJ
Tel.: Gloucester 25524

LONDON

43 Clarendon Road, Watford WD1 1JE
Tel.: Watford 31363

The Board are most anxious that you should enjoy their waterways. If you need any advice, please get in touch with one of the Officers mentioned in this pamphlet. If he cannot deal with your query he will certainly put you quickly in touch with someone who can.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Board's hire cruiser fleets at Nantwich and Hillmorton (Rugby) are available for public use and can be booked at Nantwich Basin, Chester Road, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 8LB (Tel.: Nantwich (0270) 65122).

The day boats and waterbuses operated by the Board in London are controlled by the Fleet Supervisor (London), The Canal Office, Delamere Terrace, Paddington, London W2 6ND (Tel.: 01-286 6101). Daily services run to and from the Zoological Gardens between Easter and early October. A luxury floating restaurant is available for parties throughout the year.

The Waterways Museum at Stoke Bruerne (between Towcester and Northampton) is owned and run by the Board. The Manager/Curator's telephone number is Northampton 862229. Special party booking arrangements are available and visits by schools are welcome. A shop at the museum has a full range of publications and gifts. Facilities are provided for students undertaking research.