

LICENCE FEES FOR SHARED BOATS*

15 September 2006

BW issued the final conclusions from the Fee Structure for Boat Licences in England and Wales consultation process in May 2006.

To assist with implementation of the new policy BW has issued guidance on interpretation of sections 4 a, b, and c of the May 2006 document. This is shown below. Shared ownership boats meeting the following criteria can be licenced with a private pleasure boat licence.

Guidance

1. the licence holder (the boat's lawful keeper) is up to two of the shared owners, nominated by all other share owners to be responsible for meeting BW's licence terms and conditions, including insurance and boat safety requirements
2. the licence holder is the person (or people) named as the insured on the boat's insurance certificate
3. the licence holder, in consultation only with other share owners, is responsible for all decisions relating to control and administration of the boat throughout the year. This includes determining where the boat is berthed and who uses it when
4. the boat's livery does not display an association with any company engaged in the boat share business
5. none of the share owners has any interest in the boat other than for personal, pleasure use

If any of these conditions is not met, a business licence will be required. The purpose of these rules is to ensure that it treats commercial holiday boat operators fairly. Boat share companies compete for customers openly in the holiday boating market and for BW to charge them lower licence fees than their competitors would be unfair.

The change takes effect from 1 January 2007.

* This document was prepared in July 2006 and published on our website on 6 September 2006. It unfortunately contained some errors and these have been corrected in the version published here.
