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British Waterways

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR BOAT LICENCES

In accordance with S43(3) of the Transport Act 1962, Licences are subject to the conditions which apply to the use of a boat on any waterway which we own or manage. These are necessary to protect third parties and to help us manage the waterways well for the benefit of all our users. Numbered paragraphs below are legally binding general conditions. If you breach any of these, we are entitled to terminate your Licence and you could face legal action, which may result in the removal of your boat from our waterways. We will not issue a licence for a Powered Boat to anyone under 18 years old.

Please note that it is also a criminal offence to use or keep a boat on our waterways without a licence.

1. Definitions and application

1.1. 'Boat' means the boat named in your Application or Renewal Form whose name and index number will appear on the Licence. For boats with Rivers Only Licences 'the Boat' includes any Tender to the Boat.

1.2. 'Boat length' means the length overall of the Boat including fixed fenders, bowsprits, boarding ladders, davits including their loads, stern drives, out drives, rudders, anchors, pulpits, push pits and any other extensions fore and/or aft of the Boat.

1.3. 'Home Mooring' is a mooring or place where the Boat may lawfully be left when not being used for cruising.

1.4. "Houseboat" means a boat which is not used for navigation and is kept on a British Waterways long term mooring with planning consent for residential use.

1.5. 'Navigation Rules' means any byelaws, or any conditions imposed under statutory powers concerning the mooring and movement of vessels and safety of navigation.

1.6. 'Portable' means that the Boat's normal crew can, without mechanical help, launch the Boat and take it out of the water. Examples are rowing boats, dinghies, canoes or light inflatable boats.

1.7. 'Powered' means that the boat has some form of mechanical propulsion. 'Unpowered Boats' are boats that are propelled by human, wind or animal force. A boat that is normally towed by a powered vessel is defined as powered.

1.8. 'Tender' means one small unpowered boat or a boat powered by a small outboard engine which is carried on or towed by the Boat and used only for going to and from the Boat whilst in sight of the Boat. The Tender must be marked with 'Tender to (name and index number of the Boat)'.

1.9. 'You, your, yours' means the owner or lawful keeper as described in the Application or Renewal and includes a person in charge of the Boat with the permission of the owner or lawful keeper.

1.10. 'Waterway' means any Waterway(s) owned or managed by us, and includes any navigable branches or arms, marinas, docks or basins and any land held or used by us in connection with the Waterway(s).

1.11. 'We, us, our' means British Waterways (BW) and any employee or other person approved by British Waterways to act for it.

1.12. Clauses 1 to 9 apply to all licences; clauses 10 to 13 apply to licences of boats let out for hire or reward for self-drive use; clauses 14 to 18 apply to boats used for trading or passenger carrying for reward; clauses 19 to 28 apply to trade plate licences.

2. Use of the boat

2.1. The Licence allows you to use the Boat in any Waterway including mooring for short periods while cruising. 'Short period' means up to 14 days or less where a local restriction applies. The Licence does not permit mooring for any longer period.