

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

U. S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

America's Volunteer Lifesavers SM

SpeedGram

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BS&S's PRIOR (11th) EDITION

CONTINUED USAGE

1. NASBLA Approval - While the NASBLA approval for this course expired at the end of 2001 and the new (12th) edition of BS&S is now in stock, Flotillas may continue using the 11th edition until on-hand stocks are exhausted. NASBLA allows this as a standard practice, and the NASBLA approval graduation certificate may still be used.

2. Outdated Material - Nevertheless, Flotillas should understand that some material in this edition has become outdated. This is particularly true in the section on PFDs. Flotillas are urged to provide for each student the pamphlet *Federal Requirements and Safety Tips for Recreational Boaters*. (In Connecticut it is a REQUIREMENT!) This pamphlet is available from ANSC, without charge, and contains the latest information, which should be taught in lieu of the outdated material.

Instructors are further urged to recognize other information in this edition that needs to be updated - such as the new boating-while-intoxicated standards and changes in GPS and other electronics.

BS&S / VSC CONFLICT OF TERMS

There seems to be a conflict of terms between a statement in this edition (11th) of BS&S and the Vessel Safety Check material. In Chapter 2, page 9, under Legal Requirement for Extinguishers there is a sentence that reads, "They (fire extinguishers) must be firmly mounted in their brackets and immediately accessible." It is not a federal requirement for fire extinguishers to be mounted TO THE BOAT. It would be easy for a student to misinterpret this sentence to mean the extinguisher must be mounted on the boat. Instructors may want to alert students to this situation.

In the new (12th) edition of BS&S the sentence reads, "They (fire extinguishers) must be immediately accessible in a secure location and it is recommended that they be attached to the boat." This wording brings BS&S in alignment with VSC standards.

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