



# Vessel, Equipment & Services Guide

**Birmingham & Midland Marine Services Ltd**  
**2025/26**



## Vessel, Equipment & Services Guide

Birmingham & Midland Marine Services Ltd (BMMS Ltd) provide a niche portfolio of safety, rescue, access, training services, and equipment provision, to clients working in, on, above, or in close proximity to our inland waters.

BMMS Ltd support clientele with the provision of pre-works site safety surveys, water and boat training courses, risk assessments, rescue planning, advisory services, specialist craft and personnel solutions, compliance and safe practice inspections.

Our target sector is commercial contracting sector, requiring specialist support; Marine, Safety, Rescue & Access Solutions for the inland, non-tidal / non-coastal marine environment. This information sheet sets out to detail the services and equipment available in 2025.

Quotations can be requested from [office@midlandmarine.co.uk](mailto:office@midlandmarine.co.uk) or please visit the website: [www.midlandmarine.co.uk](http://www.midlandmarine.co.uk)

Please see below for an overview of our current portfolio, including:

- Shore-based safety & rescue teams
- Safety, rescue, & work boats
- Procurement of floating plant, & equipment, including pontoons
- Boat training and water safety & rescue training

Thanks very much for your interest in what we have to offer – we look forward to working with you.

The BMMS Ltd Team.



## Shore-based Rescue Teams

Before you commit your staff to deploy in, on, above, alongside (3m) or even 'in' the water, you need to ensure that both you and they will be compliant with the legal requirements. HSE, DEFRA, and / or CDM Regulations 2015.

Once this is in place, based upon your risk-assessment, you may decide that an enhanced level of safety and rescue cover would be beneficial, and this is a service BMMS Ltd can provide.

Our highly trained Water & Flood First Responders and Rescue Technicians can be on hand to oversee the water safety on your site and be both prepared and equipped to facilitate a rescue in case of an accidental immersion or related incident.

Safety & Rescue boats, alongside rescue sleds for less accessible watercourses detailed below. BMMS Ltd personnel include specialists hailing from Fire & Rescue Service, Search and Rescue, Mountain Rescue, Military, & Teaching backgrounds. Specialists in our field.

## Safety, rescue, & work boats

**Guidance:** To simplify the description of the vessel required we have three layers of hire:

- Utility / Service Craft (USC)
- Support / Safety Craft (SSC)
- Rescue Boat Services (Restricted – non-tidal / coastal) (RBR)

The vessels below are in-house and available with trained crews by appointment.

- x1 Heavy displacement workboat 12 metres, 13 tons (USC)
- x2 Rigid Raider Mk1 Beach Assault Craft – 5 metres (USC / SSC)
- x1 Ionic Rapid full-inflation Rescue Boat – 4 metres (SSC / RBR)
- x1 Aluminium heavy-duty work boat 4 metres (USC)
- x1 Bombard C3 Commando Inflatable Rescue Boat - 3.8 metres (USC / SSC / RBR)
- x1 Jeanneau 360 Newmatic Rigiflex 3.6 metres (USC / SSC)
- x2 4-metre Swiftwater Rescue Sled (RBR & shore-based support)

**Note:** Equipment & the level of crew qualifications for each role – USC / SSC / RBR, can be found at the foot of this document.





x1 Ionic Rapid full-inflation Rescue Boat – 4 metres (SSC /RBR)



x1 Jeanneau 360 Newmatic Rigidflex - 3.6 metres (USC /SSC)



1x Bombard C3 Commando Inflatable - 3.8 metres (USC /SSC /RBR)







x2 4-metre Swiftwater Rescue Sled (RBR & shore-based support)



1x Heavy displacement workboat - 12 metres (USC)



x2 Rigid Raider Mk1 Beach Assault Craft – 5 metres (USC /SSC)



1x Aluminium heavy-duty work boat 4 metres (USC)







Many of the BMMS Ltd vessels can be deployed in a variety of roles, and we are happy to advise which types of vessels (USC / SSC / RBR) are suitable for the task in hand when the client gives us an understanding of their project.

Boat specifications and equipment required may also be contract dependant, so costings can be dynamic. The level of equipment aboard, the crew qualifications, the type of operation and the complexity of the logistics required to mobilise the craft again have a bearing upon the rate charged for skippered hire for both safety, and insurance purposes.

Our vessels are not for hire without a BMMS Skipper or Coxswain and are deployed with a minimum of a two-man crew. Note: USB can be operated by a sole coxswain with 2nd crew as support/ assist/ relief.

Vessels that can be manhandled from the trailer to the watercourse benefit from a lower mobilisation cost, whereas heavier craft may require a lift plan and mechanical positioning into the water. Some vessels will require slipway access, and it is noteworthy that all inflatable vessels must be removed from the watercourse overnight in most circumstances to alleviate the risk of vandalism and theft.

**Note:** ALL personnel working waterside and relying on BMMS Ltd for marine support MUST have undertaken suitable & relevant occupational water safety training and remain 'in-date'. They must also wear an appropriate personal floatation device, fitted correctly, which is in service and holds certification or buoyancy test.

HSE / DEFRA / MCA / CDM Regs '15 training for working waterside is available in-house.

## Utility / Service Craft (USC)

### Description

These vessels are not contracted to undertake a lifesaving role due to the basic level of equipment carried aboard, and the lower level of required qualifications to crew the vessel and the number of crew aboard.

They are ideal however, for crew transfers, bathymetric surveys, gaining access, offside vegetation works, bridge and structure inspections, events, security, and a range of other roles.

Many of the BMMS craft can undertake this role with the choice of vessel being dependent upon the role it is expected to provide. It can be crewed with one or two persons, environment dependant.

### *Availability restrictions*

This craft can only be deployed if the contractors / client's Team(s) hold in-date DEFRA Module 1, or equivalent certification, and an agreed alternative rescue plan in place.



## Support / Safety craft (SSC)

### Description

This is the type of cover best suited to lake, canal, or minor river-based commercial operations, and it allows for a certain amount of flexibility in its deployment. This vessel is a two-crew minimum role due to the 'safety' aspect, and man overboard (MOB) rescue and recovery considerations.

Unlike a 'Rescue Boat,' that must sit on station and not be used for any other purpose, the SSC set-up can be used for USC roles as well as providing basic medical support, casualty extraction, search, rescue, and recovery roles.

**Availability restrictions** This craft can only be deployed if the contractors / client's Team(s) hold in-date DEFRA Module 1, or equivalent certification and have shore-based rescue equipment and procedures in place.

The SSC can assist / lead a rescue and is able to recover a casualty to the pre-arranged RV to hand over the Emergency Medical Services. (EMS).

## Rescue Boat (Restricted) RBR

### Description

Deployable to non-tidal, non-coastal locations. Crew attired in full Aquatic PPE to DEFRA Mod 2/3/4 specification dependant, a 'rescue boat' is a dedicated vessel and crew of two or three personnel, who hold a higher level of training.

Additional equipment is kept both aboard and in the support vehicle. A 'standard' two-man crew of Coxswain and 'Able Bowman' can be joined by a Medical First Responder and crews are qualified as below:

A 'dedicated' safety / rescue craft, that cannot be utilised in any other role. Generally, this type of operation is undertaken by the Ionic Rescue Inflatable or the Bombard C3 Commando.

**Availability restrictions** This craft can only be deployed if the contractors / client's Team(s) have hold in-date DEFRA Module 1, or equivalent certification, are correctly attired in aquatic PPE, and full rescue plan and procedures are in place.

The RBR is on site to deliver a safety & rescue service only and can recover a casualty to the pre-arranged RV to hand over the Emergency Medical Services (EMS).



## Procurement of floating plant, & equipment, including pontoons

Specialist kit from HIAB barges to pontoons and Portadam solutions can be procured for our clients via our suppliers. BMMS Ltd has supplied HS2, National Grid, and Balfour Beatty on major projects in recent years. BMMS Ltd can also provide your team with a diverse range of aquatic PPE and rescue equipment ranging from drysuits to buoyancy aids, lifejackets, and throwbags to reach rescue systems.

### 4-metre Swiftwater Rescue Sleds

For accessing areas of the watercourse inaccessible to motorised vessels, Rescue Sleds can be used for multiple uses from movement of personnel to full tethered rescues. Operators of the sled will be trained to the level of a DEFRA Module 3, either current or recently lapsed but with a high level of competency.







## Training courses available

The mainstay of our business is as a specialist skills training provider, up-skilling clients working in, on, above, or in proximity to (3m) our inland waters.

BMMS Ltd are 'Corporate Partners' of the Institute of Technical Search & Rescue (InSTR), and audited and approved by InSTR, the Maritime & Coast Guard Agency (.gov), Outreach Rescue, and the Royal Yachting Association

- DEFRA Module 1, Water Awareness (shore-based)
- DEFRA Module 1, Water Safety & Rescue Awareness (Annex 'H' Syllabus – in-water EA compliant)
- DEFRA Module 2, Water Rescue First Responder
- DEFRA Module 3, Water Rescue Technician (in conjunction with our training partners)
- RYA Powerboat Level 2, (Commercially oriented: Cat 'A' & 'B' Waters to EA & CRT requirements)
- RYA Inland Waterways Helmsman (Workboat: Cat 'A' & 'B' Waters to EA & CRT requirements)
- RYA Small Craft First Aid (MCA Approved)
- RYA VHF Radio
- RYA Personal & Professional Responsibilities
- MCA Water Safety & Personal Survival (Ancillary)
- MCA Boat Fire Safety (Restricted – Ancillary)
- InSTR Inland Waters Rescue Boat Operator - category 'A' & 'B' waters non-coastal / tidal
- InSTR Marina & Boatyard Operator – water safety awareness





## Kit & Training levels – USC / SSC / RBR

### Utility / Service Craft (USC)

Crew qualification USC

- RYA Inland Waterways Helmsman
- RYA Powerboat Level 2
- DEFRA Module 1
- RYA First Aid

### Support / Safety craft (SSC)

Crew qualification SSC

- RYA Inland Waterways Helmsman
- RYA Powerboat Level 2
- DEFRA Module 1) Annex 'H' Water Safety Rescue / MCA Ancillary Water Safety & Personal Survival
- RYA First Aid at Work all Crew
- Advanced First Aid 1x Crew member
- Undertaken in-house Rescue Boat training based on DEFRA Module 4 skills

#### Equipment carried

- Response vehicle (ERV) parked on station.
- Man-Over-Board (MOB) recovery equipment
- Spinal Board
- Medical Kit + crew personal kit
- Defibrillator
- Survival Bag
- Immersion Suit
- VHF Radio (As appropriate)

### Rescue Boat Restricted (RBR)

Crew qualification RBR

- DEFRA Module 2, Water Rescue First Responder / 3, Water Rescue Technician
- DEFRA Module 4, or, Inland Waters Rescue Boat Operator (Coxswain)
- RYA Inland Waterways Helmsman #
- RYA Powerboat Level 2 (Commercial endorsement not required for Category 'A' & 'B' Waters #)
- IPOS / FPOS / FREC 3 Medical First Responder qualification

# MCA MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE MSN 1853 (M) Amendment 1, Annex 3, Page 29

#### Equipment carried

- Man-Over-Board (MOB) recovery equipment
- Spinal Board
- Defibrillator
- Survival Bag
- Immersion Suit
- Torch / Scene Lighting
- VHF Radio
- Full medical trauma kit including medical oxygen

**Note:** Advice from the MCA was that vessels on Category 'A', 'B' and non-linked bodies of water are not required to be MCA Coded.





**Birmingham & Midland Marine Services Ltd**  
**Gailey Wharf Operations & Training Centre,**  
**The Wharf, Watling Street, Gailey, Staffordshire, ST19 5PR.**

**Website: [www.midlandmarine.co.uk](http://www.midlandmarine.co.uk)**  
**Email: [office@midlandmarine.co.uk](mailto:office@midlandmarine.co.uk)**

**Telephone: 01902 544329**  
**Mobile: 07904 596547**