



ABYC A-23 July 2018

**Equipment Division Standard
Navigation Lights and Sound Signal
Appliances Project Technical Committee**

The ABYC Standards and Technical Information Reports for Small Craft are the product of a consensus of representatives of government, industry and public sectors. It is intended solely as a guide to aid manufacturers and the marine community in the design, construction, equipage and maintenance of small craft.

ABYC reviews each standard at least every five years at which time it may be reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn. ABYC welcomes any written comments on the Standards and Technical Information Reports.

ABYC A-23

SOUND SIGNAL APPLIANCES



**NAVIGATION LIGHTS AND SOUND SIGNAL APPLIANCES
PROJECT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

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This list represents the membership at the time the Committee was balloted.

NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of ABYC or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

This standard was developed under procedures accredited as meeting the criteria for American National Standards. The Project Technical Committee that approved the standard was balanced to ensure that individuals from competent and concerned interests have had an opportunity to participate.

This standard, which is the result of extended and careful consideration of available knowledge and experience on the subject, is intended to provide minimum performance requirements.

ABYC's Project Technical Committee meetings are open to the public. All contact regarding standards activity, interpretations, or meeting attendance should be directed to the ABYC Technical Department at comments@abycinc.org.

ABYC and its committees do not "approve", "certify", or "endorse" any item, construction, or proprietary device.

REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATIONS

Upon written request, the Navigation Lights and Sound Signal Appliances PTC will render an interpretation of any requirement of the standard. The request for interpretation should be clear and unambiguous. Requests should be presented to the PTC in a manner in which they may be answered in a yes or no fashion.

The committee reserves the right to reconsider any interpretation when or if additional information which might affect it becomes available to the PTC. Persons aggrieved by an interpretation may appeal to the Committee for reinterpretation.

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Based on ABYC's assessment of the existing technology, and the problems associated with achieving the goals of this standard, ABYC recommends compliance with this standard for all boats and associated equipment manufactured and/or installed after July 31, 2019.

23.1 PURPOSE

This standard is a guide for the design, construction, performance, and installation of sound signal appliances for vessels operating in international waters and vessels operating in inland waters.

NOTES:

1. The 72 COLREGS and the United States Coast Guard, in its Navigation Rules, International and Inland, contain statutory requirements for sound signal appliances on boats operating in international and inland waters.
2. Inland waters are defined in 33 CFR part 84-90.
3. The terms "boat" and "vessel" are used interchangeably throughout this standard.

23.2 SCOPE

This standard applies to all sound signal appliances for use on vessels of less than 20 m (65 ft) in length, regardless of the mode of operation or power source of the appliance.

NOTE: It is recommended that vessels 20 m (65 ft) in length to less than 75 m (246 ft) in length carry the sound signal appliances required by 72 COLREGS for vessels of that size. The United States recognizes that all vessels complying with the equipment requirements of the International Rules are considered to be in compliance with the Inland Rules. The reverse may not be true.

23.3 REFERENCES

The following references form a part of this standard. Unless otherwise noted the latest version of the referenced standards shall apply.

23.3.1 ABYC - American Boat & Yacht Council, Inc, 613 Third Street, Suite 10, Annapolis, MD 21403. Phone: 410-990-4460. Fax: 410-990-4466. Website: www.abycinc.org

[ABYC E-11, AC & DC Electrical Systems on Boats](#)

23.3.2 ASTM - American Society for Testing and Materials, ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959. Phone: 610-832-9585. Fax: 610-832-9555. Website: www.astm.org

[ASTM B117, Method of Salt Spray \(Fog\) Testing](#)

23.3.3 CFR - Code of Federal Regulations. May be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Information, PO Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. Phone: (202) 512-1800. Fax: (202) 512-2104. Website: www.gpo.gov An excerpted edition of the CFR is also available from ABYC, Inc.

33 CFR 86

23.3.4 COLREGS - International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea and/or the Navigation Rules: International – Inland. Obtain the Navigation Rules from the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Information, PO Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. Phone: 202-512-1800. Fax: 202-512-2250. Website: www.gpo.org

23.3.5 IEC - International Electrotechnical Commission, 3 rue de Varembé, PO Box 131 CH - 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland. Phone: +41 22 919 02 11. Fax: +41 22 919 03 00. Website: www.iec.ch

[IEC 60529, Degrees of Protection Provided by Enclosures](#)

23.3.6 NIST - National Institute for Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 3460, Gaithersburg, MD 20899. Website: www.nist.gov