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A-23 SOUND SIGNAL APPLIANCES

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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, 2005.

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.

NOTE: 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.

23.2 SCOPE

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

NOTE: It is recommended that vessels 20 meters (65ft.) in length to less than 75 meters (246ft.) 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 REFERENCED ORGANIZATIONS

ABYC - American Boat & Yacht Council, Inc., 3069 Solomons Island Road, Edgewater, MD 21037-1416. Phone: 410-956-1050. Fax: 410-956-2737. Website: www.abycinc.org

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

72 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, POB 371 954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. Phone: 202-512-1800. Fax: 202-512-2250, or from ABYC, Website: www.abycinc.org

CFR - Code of Federal Regulations. May be obtained from the U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 Second St. S.W., Washington, DC 20593. Phone: 202-593-0001 or from the U.S. Government Printing Office Bookstore: <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>. Also available from ABYC in *Rules and Regulations for Small Craft*.

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

23.4 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this standard, the following definitions apply.

Bell – A percussion sound appliance which gives out a ringing sound when struck, or any device capable of producing similar sound characteristics.

Horn/Whistle – A sound signal appliance capable of producing the sound prescribed by the rules and regulations for vessels for both international and inland waters.

Federal Carriage Requirements – Boat operator equipment requirements as prescribed by the Motorboat Act of 1940. The legal requirements of the 1940 Act are found in the USCG pamphlet, Federal Requirements for Recreational Boats.

Free Field Test – A sound pressure level test conducted in open air free of restrictions between the sound producing source and the measuring microphone at a site containing no standing waves or reverberations within the region of the frequency of interest.

NOTE: The absence of reflections can be accomplished by free air distances or sound energy absorption materials placed on any flat/reflective surfaces surrounding the test site, and within a straight line distance of 30 meters (98ft) of the receiving microphone.

Nominal Voltage – Those commonly used voltages, such as 6, 12, 24, 32 volts DC and 110/220 volts AC

Power Operated Sound Signal Appliance – One utilizing energy other than that generated manually or by lung power, including but not limited to electrical, compressed air or gasses, steam, or liquefied compressed gas.

Prolonged Blast – A blast of from four to six seconds.

Short Blast – A blast of about one second duration.

Sound Signal Appliance – A device which produces sounds that will comply with the requirements of this standard.

Static Floating Position – The attitude in which a boat floats in calm, fresh water, with fuel tanks filled to rated capacity, but with no person or item of portable equipment aboard. The boat should include all permanently installed,