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**Hull Division Standard
Hull Performance 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ABYC reviews each standard at least every five years at which time it may be reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn.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 H-29

CANOES AND KAYAKS



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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 Hull Performance 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.

H-29 CANOES AND KAYAKS

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H-29 CANOES AND KAYAKS

Based on ABYC's assessment of the state of existing technology, and the problems associated with achieving the requirements of this standard, ABYC recommends compliance with this standard for boats constructed after July 31, 2005.

29.1 PURPOSE

This standard is a guide for determining capacities, flotation, powering, design, construction and labeling of canoes and kayaks.

29.2 SCOPE

This standard applies to all boats identified as canoes or kayaks, including inflatable canoes or kayaks.

EXCEPTION:

Canoes or kayaks intended solely for competition.

29.3 REFERENCES

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

29.3.1.1 ABYC - American Boat and Yacht Council, Inc., 613 Third St. Annapolis, MD 21403. Phone: (410) 990-4460 Fax: (410) 990-4466 Website: www.abycinc.org

[ABYC, H-8 Buoyancy in the Event of Swamping.](#)

[ABYC, H-28, Inflatable Boats.](#)

[ABYC, S-30, Outboard Engine and Related Equipment Weights.](#)

[ABYC, T-24 Owner/Operator's Manuals](#)

29.3.2 CFR – Code of Federal Regulations and other government publications. 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.access.gpo.gov . An exerted edition of the CFR is also available from ABYC, Inc.

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29.4 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this standard the following definitions apply.

29.4.1 Beam - the maximum width of the boat which includes all structural or integral parts of the boat such as extensions of the hull and gunnels. The beam shall be measured as the largest distance between two vertical planes parallel to the center plane of the boat.

29.4.2 Canoe – a watercraft, designed to be manually propelled, with or without provision for auxiliary power, with neither end having a transverse dimension greater than 45% of its maximum beam and conforms to the following table:

Canoe Length	Maximum Beam
14 ft. (4.25m) or less	1/3 Canoe Length
over 14 ft. to 16 ft. (4.9m)	1/4 Canoe Length
over 16 ft. (over 4.9m)	1/5 Canoe Length

29.4.3 Freeboard - the vertical distance between the waterline in calm water and the water ingress reference plane.

29.4.4 Inflatable canoe or kayak - any canoe or kayak that achieves and maintains its intended structure, shape and buoyancy through the medium of inflation.