



*ABYC H-31 July, 2015
Corrected July, 2017*

Hull Division Standard

**Hull and Deck Structures 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ABYC reviews each standard at least every five years at which time it may be reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn.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-31

SEAT STRUCTURES



HULL & DECK STRUCTURES PROJECT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

In Effect for the Correction

Jim McCrory, Chair
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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 INTERPERTATIONS

Upon written request the Hull and Deck Structures 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-31 SEAT STRUCTURES

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ABYC H-31 SEAT STRUCTURES

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, associated equipment, and systems manufactured and installed after July 31, 2016.

31.1 PURPOSE

This standard is a guide for the design, construction, installation and testing of permanently installed seating systems in boats.

31.2 SCOPE

31.2.1 This standard applies to permanently installed seats in cockpits, deck areas, and all helm position(s), including their fastenings and structure to which they are attached.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. Canoes, kayaks, sailboats, race boats, and boats rated for less than 10 horsepower (7.4 kW) or for manual propulsion.
2. Seats that are integral with the boat structure.
3. Portable seats.

NOTE: This standard does not cover any other equipment (e.g., ski pylons, tables, etc.) that can be placed in a seat socket.

31.2.2 This standard does not address ergonomics, seating arrangements, or shock and vibration mitigation.

31.2.3 This standard does not cover possible misuse of the seat, such as sitting on seat backs or armrests.

31.3 REFERENCES

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

31.3.1 ABYC - American Boat & Yacht Council, Inc., 613 Third St., Suite 10, Annapolis, MD 21403. Phone: (410) 990-4460. Fax: (410) 990-4466. Web site: www.abycinc.org.

[ABYC H-41, Reboarding Means, Ladders, Handholds, Rails and Lifelines](#)
[ABYC T-5, Safety Signs and Labels](#)

31.3.2 ASTM International – American Society for Testing and Materials International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959. Phone: (610) 832-9585. Fax: (610) 832-9555. Web site: www.astm.org.

ASTM B117, *Salt Spray (Fog) Testing*

ASTM D1037, *Standard Test Methods for Evaluating Properties of Wood Based Fiber and Particle Materials*

ASTM D4329, *Standard Practice for Fluorescent Ultraviolet (UV) Lamp Apparatus Exposure of Plastics*

31.4 DEFINITIONS

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

31.4.1 Adjustable Seat - a permanently installed seat designed to allow the occupant to adjust the seat position vertically and/or horizontally (fore and aft and/or laterally).

31.4.2 Designated Occupant Position - a standing or seated area with a minimum width of 16 inches (40.6 cm) designed to be occupied at boat speeds in excess of five mph (4.3 kts).

NOTE: Seated positions are measured at the midpoint of the depth of the seat.