



*ABYC H-41 July, 2009*

**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*ABYC reviews each standard at least every five years at which time it may be reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn.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-41**

# **REBOARDING MEANS, LADDERS, HANDHOLDS, RAILS AND LIFELINES**



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## **HULL & DECK STRUCTURES 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](mailto: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 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.

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## **H-41 REBOARDING MEANS, LADDERS, HANDHOLDS, RAILS AND LIFELINES**

*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 or installed after July 31, 2010.*

### **41.1 PURPOSE**

This standard is a guide for the design, construction, and installation of reboarding means, ladders, handhold devices, grab rails, rails, lifelines, and slip resistant surfaces.

### **41.2 SCOPE**

This standard applies to all boats.

#### **EXCEPTIONS:**

- 1. Manually propelled boats**
- 2. Aquatic toys**
- 3. Canoes, kayaks, or other boats with a beam less than 3.6 ft (1.1m).**

### **41.3 REFERENCES**

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

41.3.1.1 ABYC - American Boat & Yacht Council, Inc., 613 Third St. Suite 10, Annapolis, MD 21403. Phone: 410-990-4460. Fax: 410-990-4466. Website: [www.abycinc.org](http://www.abycinc.org)

[ABYC H-31, Seat Structures](#)

[ABYC P-1, Installation of Exhaust Systems for Propulsion and Auxiliary Engines](#)

[ABYC P-14, Mechanical Propulsion Control Systems](#)

[ABYC P-17, Mechanical Steering Systems](#)

[ABYC T-5, Safety Signs and Labels](#)

[ABYC TH-23, Design, Construction, and Testing of Boats in Consideration of Carbon Monoxide](#)

41.3.1.2 ORC - Offshore Racing Council, Five Gables, Winesham, Suffolk, IP6 9HG, UK. Phone: +44 1473 785 091. Website: [www.orc.org](http://www.orc.org)

*Offshore Racing Council (ORC) rules for sailboats*

### **41.4 DEFINITIONS**

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

41.4.1 Companionway – A stairway or ladder that leads from one deck to another intended for use while the boat is underway.

41.4.2 Handhold Device Or Grabrail – A device intended to be gripped by hand in order to maintain balance.

41.4.3 Life Or Deckrail Or Lifeline – A system of rails and/or flexible lines supported by rigid structures or stanchions designed to reduce the risk of falling overboard.

41.4.4 Open Boat – A boat that does not have either;

41.4.4.1 a permanent enclosed shelter for persons, or

41.4.4.2 a permanent structural weatherdeck at least as high as the sheer, and at least half the length of the boat.