



*ABYC H-5 July, 2016
Technically Amended July, 2017*

**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ABYC reviews each standard at least every five years at which time it may be reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn.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-5

BOAT LOAD CAPACITY



HULL PERFORMANCE 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 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.

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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, associated equipment, and systems manufactured and/or installed after July 31, 2017.

5.1 PURPOSE

This standard is a guide for determining the maximum weight and persons capacity of boats.

5.2 SCOPE

This standard applies to all boats less than 26 feet (7.9 m) in length (LOA), including catamarans, and to all boats with upper decks.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. Personal watercraft;
2. Canoes and kayaks (see [ABYC H-29, Canoes and Kayaks](#));
3. Inflatable boats (see [ABYC H-28, Inflatable Boats](#));
4. Pontoon boats (see [ABYC H-35, Powering and Load Capacity of Pontoon Boats](#)).

5.3 REFERENCES

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

5.3.1.1 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

- [ABYC H-28, Inflatable Boats](#)
- [ABYC H-29, Canoes and Kayaks](#)
- [ABYC H-35, Powering and Load Capacity of Pontoon Boats](#)
- [ABYC S-7, Boat Capacity Labels](#)
- [ABYC S-30, Outboard Engine and Related Equipment Weights](#)

5.3.1.2 CFR - Code of Federal Regulations and other government publications. Obtain 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 excerpted edition of the CFR is also available from ABYC, Inc.

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5.4 DEFINITIONS

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

5.4.1 Appurtenances, Permanent - equipment that is mounted or fastened so that it is not removable without the use of tools. Seats, inboard engines, windshields, helm stations, and hardtops are examples of permanent appurtenances, whereas outboard engines, controls, batteries, and portable fuel tanks are not permanent appurtenances.

5.4.2 Boat weight, manual or sail powered boats not recommended for use with an outboard engine - the boat weight includes the heaviest production tolerances, and factory available permanent appurtenances for the heaviest factory configuration.

5.4.3 Boat weight with outboard engine - the boat weight includes full permanent tanks, the heaviest production tolerances, and all factory supplied, permanent appurtenances.

5.4.4 Boat weight with sterndrive and inboard engine - the boat weight includes engine, batteries, full permanent tanks (e.g. fuel, water, ballast, waste), the heaviest production tolerances, and factory-supplied, permanent appurtenances.