



ABYC H-3 July 2019

Hull Division Standard

**Hull & Deck Structures Project
Technical Committee**

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ABYC reviews each standard at least every five years at which time it may be reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn.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-3

EXTERIOR WINDOWS, WINDSHIELDS, HATCHES, DOORS, PORTLIGHTS, AND GLAZING MATERIALS



H-3
7/19

Origin and Development

The requirements of this standard were originally incorporated as part of H-13, *Glazing Materials for Boats*, and H-3, *Exterior Hatches, Doors, and Portlights*. H-13 was originally published in 1974 and was revised in 1987 and 1994. H-3 was originally published in 1970 and was revised in 1988 and 1994. The 2005 version was the first edition with the combined requirements of H-3 and H-13 and a revised edition was published in 2008 and 2014. The 2019 revised edition is the work of the Hull and Deck Structures Project Technical Committee.

Hull & Deck Structures Project Technical Committee

This list represents the membership at the time the committee was balloted.

Jim McCrory, *Chair*
Marc Nugent, *Vice Chair*

Frank Beckerer
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Charles Fort
Dave Marlow
Lou Novak

Gere Schmitt
Eric Skaggs

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, which is the result of extended and careful consideration of available knowledge and experience on the subject, was developed under procedures accredited as meeting the criteria for American National Standards and is intended to provide minimum performance requirements. 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.

ABYC's Project Technical Committee (PTC) meetings are open to the public. All inquiries 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" 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 that might affect it becomes available to the PTC. Persons aggrieved by an interpretation may appeal to the Committee for reinterpretation.

Summary of Revisions

This list indicates revisions to the standard when compared with the previously published version. It is not intended to be used independently of the standard. It should be used for informational purposes and as a guide to the official requirements contained in this standard. It is the responsibility of the user to read and understand the complete standard.

The main changes in this revision of H-3, *Exterior Windows, Windshields, Hatches, Doors, Portlights, and Glazing Materials* as compared with the previous edition dated 7/14, are:

- Scope and Purpose were combined
- Units of Measure section was added
- Definition of a cooking appliance was modified
- Means of exit requirements were expanded
- Windshield wiper requirements were clarified
- Hinged hatch testing requirements were clarified

DISCLAIMER

ABYC technical board rules provide that all reports, including standards and technical information reports, are advisory only. Their use is entirely voluntary. They represent, as of the date of publication, the consensus of knowledgeable persons currently active in the field of small craft on performance objectives that contribute to small boat safety.

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H-3 EXTERIOR WINDOWS, WINDSHIELDS, HATCHES, DOORS, PORTLIGHTS, AND GLAZING MATERIALS

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 systems and associated equipment manufactured and/or installed after July 31, 2020.

3.1 SCOPE

This standard applies to the design, construction, and installation of exterior windows, windshields, hatches, doors, portlights, and all glazing materials on boats.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. Means of exit installed in the hull sides of multi-hull boats.
2. Openings located below a reference line determined by length overall (LOA) divided by 17 (LOA/17) measured from the static floating position (waterline).
3. Installations subject to continuous immersion.

3.2 UNITS OF MEASURE

Values stated without parentheses are the requirement. Values in parentheses are explanatory or approximate.

3.3 REFERENCES

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

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

[ABYC H-1, Field of Vision From the Helm Position](#)
[ABYC H-4, Cockpit Drainage Systems](#)

3.3.2 ANSI - American National Standards Institute, 11 West 42nd Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10036. Phone: 212-642-4900. Fax: 212-398-0023. Website: www.ansi.org

ANSI Z 26.1, *Safety Glazing Materials for Glazing Motor Vehicles and Motor Vehicle Equipment Operating on Land Highways - Safety Standard*

3.4 DEFINITIONS

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

3.4.1 Cockpit - any deck area that is lower than the adjacent weatherdeck of the boat and exposed to the elements.

3.4.2 Compartment - any watertight or weathertight space with access from the exterior of the boat provided by a hatch, door, or portlight.

3.4.3 Cooking Appliance - an appliance intended to be used for the preparation of food and that makes use of a heat source.

3.4.4 Deck Light - a glazed component or plate fixed on the boat structure.