



Setting Standards for Safer Boating

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ABYC reviews each standard at least every five years at which time it may be reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn.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-27 July, 2008

Hull Division Standard

Hull Piping Project Technical Committee

ABYC H-27

SEACOCKS, THRU-HULL FITTINGS, AND DRAIN PLUGS

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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 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", "certify", or "endorse" any item, construction, or proprietary device.

REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATIONS

Upon written request the Hull Piping 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-27 SEACOCKS, THRU-HULL FITTINGS, AND DRAIN PLUGS

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H-27 SEACOCKS, THRU-HULL FITTINGS , AND DRAIN PLUGS

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 after July 31, 2009.

27.1 PURPOSE

This standard is a guide for the selection of materials, design, construction, and installation of seacocks, thru-hull fittings, drain plugs, and other fittings that penetrate the hull at or below the maximum-heeled waterline.

27.2 SCOPE

This standard applies to all boats.

27.3 REFERENCES

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

27.3.1.1 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 E-2, Cathodic Protection](#)

[ABYC E-11, AC and DC Electrical Systems on Boats](#)

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

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

27.3.1.2 UL - Underwriters Laboratories 333 Pfingsten Road Northbrook, IL 60062-2096 Phone: (847) 272-8800 Fax: 847-272-8129 Website: www.ul.com

ANSI/UL 1121, *Marine Through-Hull Fittings and Sea-Valves*

27.4 DEFINITIONS

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

27.4.1 Drain Plug - Removable plug that allows the draining of the bilge.

27.4.2 Maximum Heeled Waterline - The level of the water on the hull when the hull is inclined to

27.4.2.1 for powerboats, and angle of seven degrees, or

27.4.2.2 for sailboats, the level of sheer amidships.

27.4.3 Readily accessible - capable of being reached quickly and safely for effective use under emergency conditions without the use of tools.

27.4.4 Seacock - A type of valve used to control intake or discharge of water through the hull. It is operated by a lever type handle usually operating through a 90° arc, giving a clear indication of whether it is open or shut, and is typically of the two following types:

27.4.4.1 Flanged Sea Valve – A Seacock with an integral flange used to individually and securely mount the device directly to the boat hull structure.

27.4.4.2 In Line Ball Valve – A Seacock designed to be supported entirely by the through-hull fitting.