



**ABYC H-29 July 2019**

**Hull Division Standard**

**Hull Performance Project  
Technical Committee**

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# **ABYC H-29**

## **CANOES AND KAYAKS**



H-29  
7/19

### ***Origin and Development***

ABYC first published H-29, *Canoes and Kayaks* in 1978. The standard was revised in 1986, 1996 and 2007. The standard was reaffirmed in 2012. The 2019 revision is the work of the Hull Performance Project Technical Committee.

### ***Hull Performance Project Technical Committee***

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

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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](mailto: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 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 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-29, *Canoes and Kayaks* as compared with the previous edition dated 7/12, are:

- Scope and Purpose were combined
- Units of Measure section was added
- Standard was reorganized
- Industry warning label was revised

### **DISCLAIMER**

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## H-29 CANOES AND KAYAKS

Based on ABYC's assessment of the state of existing technology, and the problems associated with achieving the requirements of this standard, ABYC recommends compliance with this standard for boats constructed after July 31, 2020.

### 29.1 SCOPE

This standard is for determining capacities, flotation, powering, design, construction, and labeling of canoes and kayaks, and applies to all boats identified as canoes or kayaks, including inflatable canoes or kayaks.

*EXCEPTION: Canoes or kayaks intended solely for competition.*

### 29.2 UNITS OF MEASURE

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

### 29.3 REFERENCES

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

29.3.1 ABYC - American Boat and Yacht Council, Inc, 613 Third Street Annapolis, MD 21403. Phone: (410) 990-4460. Fax: (410) 990-4466. Website: [www.abycinc.org](http://www.abycinc.org)

[ABYC, H-8 Buoyancy in the Event of Flooding/Swamping](#)  
[ABYC, H-28, Inflatable Boats](#)  
[ABYC, S-30, Outboard Engine and Related Equipment Weights](#)  
[ABYC, T-24 Owner/Operator's Manuals](#)

29.3.2 CFR - Code of Federal Regulations and other government publications. May be obtained 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.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov) An excerpted edition of the CFR is also available from ABYC, Inc.

33 CFR

### 29.4 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this standard the following definitions apply.

29.4.1 Beam - the maximum width of the boat which includes all structural or integral parts of the boat such as extensions of the hull and gunwales. The beam shall be measured as the largest distance between two vertical planes parallel to the center plane of the boat.

29.4.2 Canoe - a watercraft, designed to be manually propelled, with or without provision for auxiliary power, with neither end having a transverse dimension greater than 45% of its maximum beam and conforms to the following specifications:

CANOE LENGTH	MAXIMUM BEAM
14 ft (4.25 m) or less	1/3 canoe Length
over 14 ft to 16 ft (4.9 m)	1/4 canoe Length
over 16 ft (over 4.9 m)	1/5 canoe Length

29.4.3 Freeboard - the vertical distance between the waterline in calm water and the water ingress reference plane.

29.4.4 Inflatable canoe or kayak - any canoe or kayak that achieves and maintains its intended structure, shape, and buoyancy through the medium of inflation.