

## ***P-27 ELECTRIC/ELECTRONIC STEERING CONTROL SYSTEMS***

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## **P-27 ELECTRIC/ELECTRONIC STEERING CONTROL SYSTEMS**

*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, 2008.*

### **27.1 PURPOSE**

This standard is a guide for the design, construction, testing, and installation of systems for electric/electronic steering on boats.

### **27.2 SCOPE**

This standard applies to wired electric/electronic steering equipment and to the marking and orientation of the mechanisms.

#### **EXCEPTIONS:**

- 1. Jet Boats**
- 2. Personal Water Craft**
- 3. Bow and/or Stern thruster systems**

#### **NOTES:**

- 1. There is no ABYC standard for wireless steering systems.**
- 2. For Jet Boats [See ABYC P-23, Steering and Controls for Jet Boats.](#)**
- 3. This standard does not address auto pilots.**

### **27.3 REFERENCED ORGANIZATIONS**

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)

SAE - Society of Automotive Engineers, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096 Phone: (724) 776-4841 Fax: (724) 776-5760 Website: [www.sae.org](http://www.sae.org)

ASTM - American Society for Testing and Materials, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2951 Phone: (610) 832-9585 Fax: (610) 832-9555 Website: [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)

### **27.4 DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this standard the following definitions apply.

Command station - The steering helm location that is in active control of the boat's steering.

Console - The structure that contains the steering helm, shift and throttle controls, switches, and instruments for use in the operation of boats.

Electric/Electronic Steering System (Herein referred to as "Steering System") – The Steering Helm, Central Processing Unit (CPU), wire harness(s), and output servo actuators that affect the tiller, sterndrive, outboard, or jet drive.

Fixed Steering Helm – A steering helm permanently affixed to the boat's structure.

Multiple Steering Helm(s) - More than one location in the boat from which steering may be achieved.

Nominal voltage(s) - Those commonly used voltages such as 12, 24, or 32 volts DC.