

T-24 OWNER/OPERATOR'S MANUALS

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BACKGROUND

This technical information report includes elements to consider in the development of owner/operator's manuals for boats. The intent is that owner/operator's manuals give sufficient information regarding the owner/operator's responsibility, and proper operation and maintenance of the boat. Further, the intent is that the development of owner/operator's manuals be done with careful consideration of all elements relating to the specific boat model to which the manual applies. This report provides a guideline for writing owner/operator's manuals. This guideline does not require that each and every item listed in this report be in the manual. The writer of an owner/operator's manual should consider each of the points raised in this document and include in the manual for a given boat only those items which are pertinent to that vessel.

INTENT

This technical information report applies to all recreational boats.

REFERENCED ORGANIZATIONS

ABYC - American Boat & Yacht Council, Inc., 3069 Solomons Island Road, Edgewater, MD 21037-1416. Phone: (410) 956-1050. Fax: (410) 956-2737. Web site: www.abycinc.org.

SAE - Society of Automotive Engineers - 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001. Phone: (724) 776-4841. Fax: (724) 776-5760. Web site: www.sae.org.

USCG - United States Coast Guard, USCG Headquarters, Washington, DC, 25093-0001, U.S. Coast Guard Infoline: (800) 368-5647. Web site: www.uscgboating.org.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this report the following definitions apply.

Owner/operator's Manual - A compilation of information provided by the boat manufacturer, including all available component manuals.

CONTENTS

It is recommended that all safety-related copy be graphically emphasized in the owner/operator's manual.

- a. Factory Warranty Statement
- b. Declaration Statement - Statement of the standards to which the boat was built.
- c. Owner/operator's Responsibilities
 - (1) Federal law and the laws of most states clearly specify that the operator of a vessel is responsible for the maintenance and safe conduct of the vessel and the safety of passengers.
 - (2) State registration or federal documentation.
 - (3) Safety equipment required and/or recommended by the USCG.
 - (4) Manufacturer's warranty registration/procedures.
 - (5) Information on boating safety courses, through which operators can gain knowledge and experience in skills such as:
 - (a) navigation,
 - (b) seamanship and boat handling,
 - (c) rules of the road, international - inland,
 - (d) weather prediction,
 - (e) safety at sea,
 - (f) survival in bad weather,
 - (g) respect for others on the water,
 - (h) first aid,
 - (i) radio communication,
 - (j) distress signals, and/or
 - (k) pollution controls