

The American Boat & Yacht Council, Inc.

# ABYC

**Setting Standards for Safer Boating**

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***T-5 SAFETY SIGNS AND LABELS***

**Table of Contents**

BACKGROUND.....	1
INTENT.....	1
REFERENCED ORGANIZATIONS.....	1
DEFINITIONS.....	1
REQUIREMENTS - IN GENERAL.....	1
ELEMENTS OF A LABEL.....	1
PICTORIAL.....	2
REQUIREMENTS - SIGNAL WORDS.....	2
COLOR - SIGNAL WORD PANEL.....	2
MULTIPLE HAZARD LABEL.....	3
WORDING OF LABELS.....	3
LETTERING.....	3
INFORMATION FOR OWNERS.....	4

## **T-5 SAFETY SIGNS AND LABELS**

### **BACKGROUND**

This technical information report presents a system for the design, installation, and text of signs and labels used for safety information.

### **INTENT**

This technical information report applies to all safety information labels used on boats, associated equipment, instructions, and manuals.

**NOTE:** *This technical information report is not intended to require a change in any existing label that was made to comply with any existing standard. It is intended for reference in the design of new labels, revisions to existing labels, and revisions to ABYC standards.*

**EXCEPTION:** *Labels required by law or government regulation.*

**NOTE:** *The words "sign" and "label" are used interchangeably within this report.*

### **REFERENCED ORGANIZATIONS**

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.

### **DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this report the following definitions apply.

**Pictorial** - A graphic representation intended to convey a message without the use of words. It may represent a hazard, a hazardous situation, a precaution to avoid a hazard, a result of not avoiding a hazard, or any combination of these messages.

### **REQUIREMENTS - IN GENERAL**

Appropriate danger, warning, or caution labels should be considered if all of the following four conditions exist:

1. the hazard is associated with the use of the product,
2. the manufacturer knows of the hazard,
3. the hazard is not obvious or readily discoverable by the user, and
4. the hazard will exist during normal use or foreseeable misuse.

#### **Installation**

**Location** - Signs should be placed in a readable location to warn of the hazard in sufficient time to take appropriate action. Each label must withstand the combined effects of exposure to water, oil, sea spray, direct sunlight, heat, cold, and wear expected in the normal operation of the boat, or the equipment to which it is attached, without loss of legibility. Protective top surfaces, such as UV-resistant top coat can greatly affect resistance to weathering.

### **ELEMENTS OF A LABEL**

A hazard label or sign should contain all four of the following messages:

1. Signal word - The level of hazard intensity:  
DANGER, or  
WARNING, or  
CAUTION;
2. the nature of the hazard, such as:  
high voltage, or  
swinging doors, or  
sharp edges;