

# FISC Bulletin Board

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IAAI Fire Investigation Standards Committee (FISC)

## American Boat and Yacht Counsel "ABYC" Standards

MARK BEAVERS—This FISC Bulletin Board will highlight the American Boat and Yacht Counsel "ABYC" referenced standards identified in the National Fire Protection Association's *921, Guide for Fire & Explosion Investigations*, 2008 edition.

Before discussing the ABYC standards, we will take a brief look at the ABYC and its' history. The American Boat & Yacht Council is a not-for-profit membership organization which was formed in response to the 1950s recreational boating boom. The organization was formed by members of the Motorboat and Yacht Advisory Panel of the U.S. Coast Guard's Merchant Marine Counsel. The ABYC was incorporated on February 1, 1954. "American Boat & Yacht Council – is a membership organization that has been developing, writing and updating the safety standards for boat building and repair in the United States for over 50 years. ABYC is actively involved with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and is a leader in education for the marine industry, as well as certification programs for marine technicians."

The first edition of the ABYC *Safety Standards and Recommended Practices* was published in 1965 and consisted of a total of nine standards. Subsequently the name was changed to *Standards and Technical Information* and with the 2008 edition it consists of over fifty standards. The standards development process used by the ABYC permits all concerned to participate in the development process of these standards, technical information and recommended practices.

The 2008 edition of the *NFPA 921, Guide for Fire & Explosion Investigations*, Chapter 2, 2.3.1 identifies seven ABYC standards which are listed below and which we will provide you the purpose and scope for quick reference.

### ABYC A-3, Galley Stoves, 2007

The purpose of A-3 is to "serve as a guide for the design, construction, installation, and maintenance of galley stoves." The scope of this standard applies to "the permanently installed galley stoves designed for cooking in accommodation spaces in boats." This standard is intended "for all boats and associated equipment manufactured and/or installed after July 31, 2008." It should be noted that three exceptions are

identified which pertain to stoves covered by A-30 "Cooking Appliances with Integral LPG Cylinders," A-1 "Marine Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Systems" and A-22 "Marine Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Systems"

### ABYC A-7, Liquid and Solid Fueled Boat Heating Systems, 2006

The purpose of A-7 is to "serve as a guide for the design, construction, and installation of permanently installed boat accommodation space heating units and systems." Further, the scope of this standard applies to "permanently installed boat accommodation space heating units and systems using liquid or solid fuels." This standard is intended for all boats and associated equipment manufactured and/or installed after July 31, 2007." The exception to this standard pertains to heating appliances and systems fueled by (LPG), (CNG), and heating systems that produce steam in a boiler are not covered by this standard.

### ABYC A-26, LPG and CNG Fueled Appliances, 2006

The purpose of A-26 is to "serve as a guide for the design, construction, installation, and maintenance of LPG and CNG fueled appliances." The scope of this standard applies to "permanently installed LPG and CNG fueled appliances intended for use in enclosed compartments on boats." This standard is intended "for all systems and associated equipment manufactured and/or installed after July 31, 2007." The exceptions to this standard related to A-3 Galley Stoves and A-30 Cooking Appliances With Integral LPG Cylinders.

### ABYC A-32, Cooking Appliances with Integral LPG Cylinders, 2006

It should be noted that the reference provided by the 2008 ed. of the NFPA 921 is incorrect. The correct ABYC standard number is ABYC a-30 Cooking Appliances with Integral LPG Cylinders 2006.

The purpose of this standard, A-30, is to "serve as a guide for the design, construction, installation and maintenance of cooking appliances with integral LPG cylinders." The scope of this

standard applies to “all appliances with integral LPG cylinders of not more than 16 ounces (450 grams) designed for cooking outside the boat interior and appliances with integral LPG cylinders of not more than 8 ounces (225 grams) designed for cooking and storage in the accommodation spaces.” This standard is intended “for all appliances, associated equipment and systems manufactured after July 31, 2007.”

#### **ABYC H-24.13, Gasoline Fuel systems, 2005**

H-24.13 relates to fuel tank vent systems design and installation. The goal is to prevent the spilling of liquid fuel into the boat or environment during fueling or use. Further, it provides information of flame arresting, cleaning and back flow prevention from water intrusion into the fuel vent system.

#### **ABYC H-32, Ventilation of Boats Using Diesel Fuel, 2007**

The purpose of this standard, H-32, is to “serve as a guide for the design, construction and installation of ventilation systems of boats using diesel fuel and for the purpose of removal of fixed gaseous fire extinguishing system discharge, and/or combustion air, and/or any incidental additional uses.” The scope of this standard applies to “boats using diesel fuel for electrical generation, mechanical power, or propulsion.” Further compliance with this standard is found in the Code

of Federal Regulations, 33 CFP, Subpart K, Sections CFR 183.601-183.630. This standard is intended “for all boats, associated equipment, and systems manufactured after July 31, 2009.”

#### **ABYC P-1, Installation of Exhaust Systems, 2002**

The purpose of this standard, P-1 is to serve as a “guide for the design, installation, and selection of materials for exhaust systems for marine engines.” Further, the scope of this standard “applies to exhaust systems of all boats equipped with inboard or stern drive engines, or permanently installed auxiliary engines, from the exhaust outlet of the engine or the turbocharger, if used, through the terminus where the exhaust gases are discharged.” This standard is intended “for all boats, associated equipment, and systems manufactured after July 31, 2003. An exception to this standard relates to “stern drive installations with integral exhaust systems.”

We encourage all of you to view the ABYC website to learn more about the standards development process that they utilize. The ABYC web site can be found at: <http://www.abycinc.org>.

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