



BOATING SAFETY CIRCULAR

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Boating Safety Circular

The *Boating Safety Circular* is a product of the United States Coast Guard's Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety — Boating Safety Division — Recreational Boating Product Assurance Branch, Commandant (BSX-23), 2703 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE, Stop 7501, Washington, DC 20593-7501
Email: rbscompliance@uscg.mil

The *Boating Safety Circular* is for information only. No Federal Statutes or Regulations are established or changed in this circular.

<https://safeafloat.com/boat-builders-handbook/>
www.uscgboating.org
www.safeafloat.com

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The Boating Safety Circular (BSC) and other important U.S. Coast Guard notices for recreational boat manufacturers are delivered by the GovDelivery system using the following address: uscoast-guard@service.govdelivery.com.

To ensure you receive the BSC and other notices please whitelist this email address or add it to your safe senders list.

Visit the U.S. Coast Guard at the 2025 International Boat Builders' Exhibition & Conference (IBEX) in Tampa, FL.



The Recreational Boating Product Assurance Branch will be hosting a booth (Booth #3-2232) at the 2025 IBEX show from October 7th-9th. The booth staff will be available to answer questions and educate show attendees on USCG requirements for recreational boats and how to comply with them. Please stop by and say hello!

About the Recreational Boating Product Assurance Branch

Responsible for developing, maintaining and enforcing recreational boat manufacturing safety regulations, Branch staff attend IBEX every year to educate IBEX attendees on Coast Guard requirements. Valuable information for

builders, including the Boat Builder's Handbook, educational videos, and Coast Guard policies, may be found at www.safeafloat.com. Additional boating safety information may be found at www.uscgboating.org.

About IBEX

The world's leading technical boat-building showcase, IBEX delivers a unique forum where the marine industry can do business, share ideas, and accelerate new product development. IBEX keeps people connected to the products, technology, people, and training that are advancing the industry.

USCG/ABYC Risk Mitigation Series 9: Plugs, Pigtails, and Pre-Wired Chargers, Oh My! Electrical Updates with ABYC

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) have opened registration for the next installment of the USCG/ABYC Risk Mitigation Series, which will be held virtually Wednesday, November 5, from 1 to 3 p.m. "Plugs, Pigtails, and Pre-Wired Chargers, Oh My! Electrical Updates with ABYC" will cover the latest electrical developments from ABYC's own standards developers as well as experts from across the industry. Tune in for updates from the newest versions

of E-11 and E-13, as well as best practices and common misconceptions regarding pre-wired battery chargers and DC mixed voltage.

Webinar topics include:

- Intro and Update from USCG
- Update Requirements in E-11 and E-13
- Pre-Wired Battery Chargers
- DC Mixed Voltage

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The Risk Mitigation Series is a free, online event dedicated to improving safety in recreational boat design and construction. Sessions are recorded for later viewing.

<https://www.abycinc.org/riskmitigation>.

To access past recordings, visit www.abycinc.org/USCGwebinars.

To register for free, please visit

“CWO Latiolais will continue advancing boating safety by ensuring that every new recreational boat manufacturer and importer in the United States is informed of current Federal regulations and has access to key resources.”

Welcome Aboard to Our New Point of Contact for Manufacturer's Identification Codes

Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Jason Latiolais reported to the Recreational Boating Product Assurance Branch in August 2025. Prior to his arrival at Coast Guard Headquarters, he served as Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Station Rockland, ME. CWO Latiolais is a native of Louisiana and enlisted in the Coast Guard in 2003. His previous assignments include three small boat stations, four Coast Guard Cutters, Maritime Safety and Security Team New Orleans, and Boat Program Manager for the U.S. Consulate General Hong Kong & Macau.

CWO Latiolais's breadth of maritime experience provides him with a unique and informed perspective on boating safety. In his new role, CWO Latiolais will continue advancing boating safety by ensuring that every new recreational boat manufacturer and importer in the United States is informed of current Federal regulations and has access to key resources. These efforts will support manufacturers and importers in their success while helping them deliver safe products for the recreational boating community.

You can email all MIC application requests and questions to



MICAPP@uscg.mil. This ensures prompt delivery and establishes a way to track submissions and responses.

Please stop by our booth at IBEX (3-2034) to meet CWO Latiolais and other team members.

Why do Boatbuilders Need to Follow the Regulations?

Following and understanding regulations can be difficult and frustrating. It can also be costly. But why are you required to follow these regulations? The short answer: to save lives. This is something that we

should remind ourselves when building boats. Boat builders don't always get feedback as to why this matters and why the costs of implementing safety features are important.

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“When the Coast Guard arrived on scene, they found that the skiff was floating level and acting as the lifeboat for its occupants”



Recently, USCG Station Oak Island, NC responded to a 16' aluminum skiff that had taken on water over the gunwales after anchoring in moderately choppy seas. When the Coast Guard arrived on scene, they found that the skiff was floating level and acting as the lifeboat for its occupants, allowing time for rescuers to arrive. This skiff was required to have level foam flotation and is a prime example of a boat builder following the regulations and subsequently lives were saved. It is important to know that the Coast Guard's Boating Safety Division is determined to make it as easy as possible for boat builders to meet and understand

USCG recreational boat safety regulations. On our www.safeafloat.com website, you can view the Boat Builders Tool Kit, which has valuable resources to assist manufacturers in building safe boats, including contact information for compliance inspectors, links to regulations, the factory inspection checklist, policies and the Boatbuilder's Handbook. If a builder still has any questions after viewing the Boat Builders Tool Kit, please contact your assigned engineer, or if you don't know who that is, please send us an email RBSCCompliance@uscg.mil.



Coast Guard Uncovers False Claim of Home-Built Vessels

“The Coast Guard remains vigilant to uncover instances where vessels are falsely represented as self-imported or home-built.”

The Coast Guard has identified a company importing boats from a foreign manufacturer and operating them commercially as rental, lease, or livery vessels. These vessels were improperly registered with the state as home-built and assigned state-issued Hull Identification Numbers (HINs). The Captain of the Port (COTP) is addressing this issue through a COTP Order requiring the importer to certify the boats meet federal regulation standards and provide proper HINs to the boats.

Individuals may construct boats or

import boats for personal use without intent to sell them in the United States, and these vessels would qualify as home-built or self-imported, but they could not be used for commercial passenger operations, rentals, or any activity exceeding personal use. The Coast Guard remains vigilant to uncover instances where vessels are falsely represented as self-imported or home-built. When individuals and foreign manufacturers deliberately attempt to circumvent regulations or are uninformed about these regulations, the vessels involved can present significant safety concerns since

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there is no responsible entity to ensure regulatory compliance, manage safety defects, and initiate recalls. Consequently, unsuspecting customers who purchase or rent these vessels may be exposed to boats that fail to meet minimum safety standards. This practice also creates an unfair competitive disadvantage for manufacturers who adhere to applicable laws and regulations.

For more information on how to comply with Coast Guard recreational boat manufacturing regulations, or to report suspected instances of vessels being improperly classified as home-built or self-imported please send an email to rbscompliance@uscg.mil.



USCG Recreational Boating Product Assurance Branch (CG-BSX-23) Staff



Mr. Jeff Ludwig: Branch Chief
Jeffrey.A.Ludwig@uscg.mil

Mr. Eric Johnson: Senior Engineer
Eric.A.Johnson@uscg.mil

Mr. Kevin Ferrie:
Engineering/Manufacturer Outreach
Kevin.B.Ferrie@uscg.mil

Mr. Todd Williams:
Engineering/Manufacturer Outreach

Philip.T.Williams@uscg.mil

Mr. Will Hillyer: RBS Specialist
William.Y.Hillyer@uscg.mil

Mr. Tim Rafter: RBS Specialist
Timothy.M.Rafter2@uscg.mil

CWO Jason Latiolais: Safety
Compliance Officer
Jason.M.Latiolais@uscg.mil



Compliance Inspectors

Dave Beery
Project Manager
Compliance Associate
dbeery@ppgmarine.com
FL (part), GA

Aron Brewer
Compliance Inspector
abrewer@ppgmarine.com
FL, SC, LA

Rick Curtis
Compliance Inspector
rcurtis@ppgmarine.com
CT, KY, MA, MD, ME, NH, OH, RI, TN,
VA, VT

Tony Garrison
Compliance Inspector

tgarrison@ppgmarine.com
CA, GU, IL, IN, KS, MI, MO, MP, NV,
OK, PR, UVI, TX

Stephen Kynaston
Compliance Inspector
skynaston@ppgmarine.com
AK, AL, AR, HI, IA, ID, MN, MS, MT,
ND, NE, OR, SD, WA, WI, WY

Bryan Teague
Compliance Inspector
bteague@ppgmarine.com
DC, DE, NC, NJ, NY, PA, WV

Lowell Weidman
Compliance Inspector
lweidman@ppgmarine.com
AZ, CO, NM, UT



Note: The Compliance Inspector for your state may have been re-assigned. The Coast Guard has several new inspectors and areas of responsibility have been updated. Always check on www.SafeAfloat.com for the most current assignments.

Websites of Note:

uscgboating.org - U.S. Coast Guard's Boating Safety Division

[Facebook.com/USCG Boating Safety](https://Facebook.com/USCGBoatingSafety) - U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety

safeafloat.com - Recreational Boating Product Assurance Branch Boat Building Compliance Website

abycinc.org - American Boat and Yacht Council

nmma.org - National Marine Manufacturers Association

nasbla.org - National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)

Email Addresses of Note:

rbscompliance@uscg.mil - for all manufacturer inquiries except for MICs

rbsinfo@uscg.mil - for general boating safety questions

MICAPP@uscg.mil - for all inquiries related to manufacturer's identification codes (MIC)

TypeApproval@uscg.mil - for all inquiries about equipment and materials that receive Coast Guard approval (life jackets, visual distress signals, inflatable life rafts, etc.)

Calendar of Events

American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC)

Risk Mitigation Series 9: 11/05/2025 1pm to 3pm <https://www.abycinc.org/riskmitigation>

ABYC Online Training: https://abycinc.org/events/event_list.asp

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)

State RBS Workshop	Lexington, Kentucky	03/10/2026 - 03/11/2026
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Education Seminar	Lexington, Kentucky	03/13/2026 - 03/14/2026
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National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)

International Boatbuilders Exhibition and Conference (IBEX) Trade Show	Tampa, Florida	10/01/2024 - 10/03/2024
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Boat and Trade Shows: [Worldwide Boat Show Calendar \(nmma.org\)](https://www.worldwideboatshowcalendar.com)

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The following are active recalls that opened since the last Boating Safety Circular was published in April of 2025. To search for recalls go to:

[Recalls \(uscgboating.org\)](https://uscgboating.org)

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2025**CHRIS CRAFT BOATS**

Campaign # 25MF0370
 Year: 2025
 Model(s): Sportster 28
 Problem: Fuel system design with both stern drive and outboard propulsion does not have adequate means of Anti-siphon protection.

BOMBARDIER RECREATIONAL PRODUCTS INC

Campaign # 25MF0326
 Year: 2025
 Model(s): 2025 Sea-Doo Switch Cruise Limited, Switch Cruise, Switch Sport, Switch Fish
 Problem: Seat cushions may lift unintentionally and fall from the watercraft while trailering

BOMBARDIER RECREATIONAL PRODUCTS INC

Campaign # 25MF0319
 Year: 2025
 Model(s): 2025 Sea-Doo Switch Cruise Limited
 Problem: Hull sealant is missing at specific sections. Water evacuation from the hull may not be optimal and worsen the following condition: Improper distribution of passengers and cargo weight could overload the front of the watercraft and cause instability, nosediving and possibly lead to capsizing.

MAVERICK BOAT GROUP INC

Campaign # 25MF0315
 Year: 2025
 Model(s): Model year 2024 Pathfinder 2400 TRS
 Problem: Fiberglass defect

MERCURY MARINE

Campaign # 25MF0286
 Year: 2025
 Model(s): Gen 2 DTS Controls, Avator Controls
 Problem: Lever faults

MERCURY MARINE

Campaign # 25MF0285
 Year: 2025
 Model(s): 75–115hp 2.1L FourStroke, SeaPro, Pro XS model, 135–150hp 3.0L FourStroke, SeaPro, Pro XS model
 Problem: Corrosion issues on the stud located on the upper shift shaft arm

HONDA MOTOR CORP

Campaign # 25MF0276
 Year: 2025
 Model(s): BF115J, BF135D, BF140A, BF150D and BF350A
 Problem: The shift actuator link rod in the iST DBW shifting system may break during use. If this occurs, the outboard may be unable to shift between forward, neutral and reverse gears, potentially resulting in a loss of vessel control.

SOLID STATE MARINE

Campaign # 25MF0263
 Year: 2025
 Model: 36V60AH Group 24 Battery Version 1
 Problem: Potential Design Issue with batteries produced between June 2024 - April 2025

