



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

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https://safeafloat.com/boat-buildershandbook/ www.uscgboating.org www.safeafloat.com

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quard@service.govdelivery.com.

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USCG/ABYC Risk Mitigation Series 8: Gasoline Fuel Systems Evolution and Compliance

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, May 7, from 1 to 3 p.m. Risk Mitigation 8: Gasoline Fuel Systems – Evolution and Compliance will cover the latest gasoline fuel system requirements and critical safety considerations.

Industry professionals, marine surveyors, technicians, and compliance personnel are invited to join expert-led presentations and a panel discussion on updates to ABYC Standard H-24 (Gasoline Fuel Systems, 2025 revision) and the USCG's new equivalency policy. Fuel system inspection, contributing factors to refueling accidents, and common mistakes observed in refueling will also be addressed.

Webinar topics include:

- Industry Update from the USCG
- USCG Equivalency: What Does it Mean and How Does it Work?
- H-24 2025 Update on the New Standard
- Fuel System Inspection and Refueling Procedure

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.

To register free, please visit https://www.abycinc.org/riskmitigation.

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

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Coast Guard Exercises Equivalency Authority

The Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary & Boating Safety has the authority to issue equivalencies to comply with safety standards, as set forth in Chapter 46, U.S. Code, 4305(b):

Equivalents – The secretary may accept a substitution for associated equipment performance or other safety standards for a recreational vessel if the substitution provides an equivalent level of safety.

This tool can be used in novel or unique arrangements that don't fit well into current safety regulations, or if the technology and routine vessel trends simply outpace regulations. The Office of Auxiliary & Boating Safety has issued two equivalencies this year that fit the latter category:

1. The first addresses a trend in vessels to place fuel pumps inside a fuel tank, which is not in compliance with 33 CFR 183.566 that requires the pump to be on

"This tool can be used in novel or unique arrangements that don't fit well into current safety regulations, or if the technology and routine vessel trends simply outpace regulations."

"Equivalencies allow us to issue policy for boats or equipment that don't fit well into the prescriptive regulations." or within 12 inches of the engine it serves. 2. The second addresses a potential noncompliance with wire gauge smaller than 18 AWG in powered communication backbone systems such as NMEA 2000 as specified in 33 CFR 183.425(d).

Acceptance of Requirements Found in ABYC H-24, Gasoline (Petrol) Fuel Systems, as Equivalent to the Requirements found in 33 CFR 183.566

CG-BSX-23 Policy Letter 25-01 accepts a substitution for certain pump-in-tank fuel systems for the requirement that a fuel pump be on or within 12 inches of the engine it serves. The Fuel System Standard in 33 CFR 183 Subpart J requires manufacturers to design gasoline fuel systems in a manner that will minimize the probability of release of gasoline liquid or vapor, which is the premise behind placing a fuel pump next to the engine (to minimize length of pressurized hose). Pump-in-tank arrangements have mechanical advantages in that they provide a continuous, laminar supply of fuel to the pump and in an environment that facilitates lubrication and heat dissipation. Connections within the system outside the fuel tank are also reduced significantly, mitigating the risk of a spill. ABYC H-24 addresses pump-intank arrangements and sets forth the conditions where pump-in-tank systems can be considered compliant with USCG regulations.

Acceptance of 22 AWG Wire in Communication Systems as Equivalent to the Requirements found in 33 CFR 183 425

CG-BSX-23 Policy Letter 25-02 codifies

acceptance of the wire gauge as small as 22 AWG in communication systems such as NMEA 2000. The regulation specifies any conductor in multiconductor sheath must be at least 18 AWG, but NMEA cables have long been accepted in both commercial and recreational applications and have historically used conductors as small as 22 AWG. The equivalency allows for cable constructed for use in communication backbones to be used in direct current applications under 5 amps. It must be used only in integrated power supply applications for networking, control and systems such as NMEA 2000. When used in this capacity, conductors #18 AWG and larger will be provided with over current protection in accordance with 33 CFR 183.455. For cables with conductors smaller than #18 AWG the over current protection shall not exceed 3 Amperes for #22 AWG and 5 Amperes for #20 AWG. This equivalency brings the recreational requirements in line with commercial policy.

Equivalencies allow us to issue policy for boats or equipment that don't fit well into the prescriptive regulations found in 33 CFR 183 Subchapter S and allows the industry to continue to evolve. Equivalencies and other policies can be found at safeafloat.com, in the policy section under the Boat Builders Tool Kit tab or follow this link: https://safeafloat.com/policies-letters/

Coast Guard Announces New Certification Available for Recreational Vessel Manufacturers

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is pleased to announce that we have partnered with the American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) to develop a specialized certification for professionals in the field of recreational boat manufacturing. The certification is called the Recreational Boat Regulations Specialist (RBRS) and the

primary purpose of this certification is to ensure that individuals working in the boating and marine industry are knowledgeable and proficient in complying with federal laws and regulations pertaining to the manufacture of recreational vessels.

The educational course is currently being piloted by a select group of industry

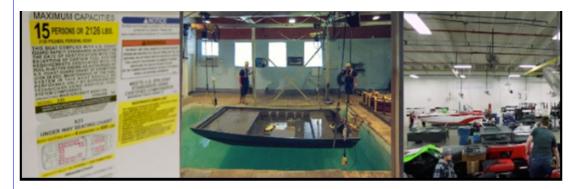
"This combined approach ensures that the RBRS certification is grounded in both regulatory compliance and technical knowledge."

professionals and will be more widely available after feedback is received from those first participants. The self-paced educational course will be available online through the ABYC learning management system, and a written study guide will also be available to supplement the course. Once RBRS candidates have taken the course they will be eligible to take the certification exam. More information on how to sign up for the certification will be available this summer at: https://abycinc.org/education/certification-program/.

The partnership between the USCG and ABYC brings together the extensive regulatory expertise of the US Coast Guard and the technical and standardssetting knowledge of the ABYC. The USCG has long been responsible for enforcing federal maritime safety regulations and overseeing the safe

operation of recreational vessels. ABYC, on the other hand, plays a critical role in setting industry standards for boat construction, equipment, and maintenance. This combined approach ensures that the RBRS certification is grounded in both regulatory compliance and technical knowledge, providing a holistic understanding of the issues compliance professionals face in the field.

By earning this certification, recreational marine industry professionals will demonstrate their ability to assess and ensure compliance with various regulations related to the construction of recreational vessels. Any questions about the RBRS certification can be directed to rbscompliance@uscg.mil.



Need a Manufacturer Identification Code (MIC), Or Know Someone Who Does?

Simply email the Coast Guard at MICApp@uscg.mil. A Coast Guard representative will respond with detailed instructions on how to complete the MIC application process.

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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.

Don't forget to let the Coast Guard know if your company information has changed.

The regulations in 33 CFR §181.33(b) require you to notify the Coast Guard if you change company ownership, name, or address. It is also important to keep all contact information current in your MIC record, including phone number and email address. You can email MICApp@uscg.mil to provide updated company information.

Calendar of Events				
American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC)				
ABYC Online Training: https://abycinc.org/events/event_list.asp				
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)				
2025 Operation Dry Water	Nationwide	07/04/2025 - 07/06/2025		
Annual Conference	Des Moines, Iowa	09/16/2025 - 09/18/2025		
National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)				
International Boatbuilders Exhibition and Conference (IBEX) Trade Show	Tampa, Florida	10/07/2025 - 10/09/2025		
Boat and Trade Shows: Worldwide Boat Show Calendar (nmma.org)				

Websites of Note:

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

Facebook.com/USCG Boating Safety - 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

<u>nasbla.org</u> - National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)

Email Addresses of Note:

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

rbsinfo@uscq.mil - for general boating safety questions

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

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



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Recalls

The following are active recalls that opened since the last Boating Safety Circular was published in September of 2024. To search for recalls go to:

https://uscgboating.org/content/recalls.php

2025

THE MARINE GROUP

Campaign # 25MF0125 Year: 2025

Model(s): Diamante, Lago Z, Lago V
Problem: LED Lighting Stray Current

VOLVO PENTA

Campaign # 25MF0117

Model(s): V6 and V8 gasoline engines with SX,

DPS, TCC and FWD sterndrives and

EVC2 Control Systems

VOLVO PENTA

Campaign # 25MF0118 Model(s): D4 and D6

Problem: Electronic Vessel Control system (EVC2)

BOMBARDIER RECREATIONAL PRODUCTS INC

Campaign # 25MF0062

Year: 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Model(s): Sea-Doo Switch Problem: Risk of Capsize

MALIBU, INC.

Campaign # 25MF0036

Year: 2025

Model(s): Cobalt A29, R30, R31, R33, R35

Problem: Bilge Blower

2024

DOMETIC

Campaign # 24MF0390

Model(s): 172005, CH2100P, CH2200ENCP,

CH2200P, CH2200SCP, CH2244ENCP

Problem: Shift Lever Connection

MALIBU, INC.

Campaign # 24MF0527

Year: 2024

Model(s): CS22, CS23, R4, R6

Problem: Fuel Hose