



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: bscompliance@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.

USCG/ABYC Risk Mitigation Series 10 - Be Informed and Prepared: Emerging Technologies and Inspections

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 13, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. *Risk Mitigation Series 10 - Be Informed and Prepared: Emerging Technologies and Inspections* where expert speakers cover a variety of topics with an eye on the future of the industry.

Industry professionals, marine surveyors, technicians, and compliance personnel are invited to join expert-led presentations and hear about updates coming to ABYC standards in 2026, new USCG inspection formats, and the future of advanced driver-assistance systems in boating.

Webinar topics include:

- Industry Update from the USCG
- Changes to Upcoming Standards
- Factory Visits 2.0: What to Expect
- ADAS: Advanced Driver-Assistance Systems

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.

For free registration, please visit <https://www.abycinc.org/riskmitigation>.

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

Coast Guard's New Defect Notifications Policy

The U.S. Coast Guard has released a new policy letter, *CG-BSX-23 Policy Letter 25-03*, to provide clear guidance for manufacturers of recreational boats and associated equipment on the process for notifying the public of safety defects.

The policy outlines the responsibilities of manufacturers upon discovering a defect. A notification is required under two main conditions: a failure to comply with statutory or regulatory requirements, or the presence of a "substantial risk defect" that could

cause death or personal injury. Key aspects of the notification process include:

- **Initiation:** A defect notification can be initiated by either the manufacturer or by the Coast Guard's Recreational Boating Product Assurance Branch (CG-BSX-23) following inspections, public safety reports, or boat incident data.
- **Manufacturer's Duty:** Upon determining a defect exists, manufacturers are required to cease the sale of the affected product, submit a

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“manufacturers are required to cease the sale of the affected product, submit a detailed Defect Noncompliance Report and a Corrective Action Plan ”



detailed Defect Noncompliance Report and a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to the Coast Guard for approval.

- **Public Notification:** Once the plan is approved, manufacturers must notify dealers, distributors, and customers about the defect and the corrective measures. The notification must be implemented at no cost to the public.

Monitoring: The Coast Guard will monitor the recall campaign through regular progress reports from the manufacturer until the issue is satisfactorily resolved.

The policy also details a formal appeals process for manufacturers who may dispute a defect determination. This guidance is intended to assist industry, mariners, and

the public in understanding and applying the necessary safety regulations.

For more detailed information, the full policy letter and other policies can be found at www.safeafloat.com, in the policy section under the Boat Builders Tool Kit tab or follow this link: <https://safeafloat.com/policies-letters/>.

Any questions regarding recall campaigns can be directed to the Recreational Boating Product Assurance Branch by email at rbscompliance@uscg.mil.



ABYC To Develop a New Technical Information Report for eFoils and Jetboards

In response to the increase in the manufacturing and importation of mechanically propelled personal hydrofoils (eFoils) and mechanically propelled surfboards (jetboards) in the United States, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has



requested that the American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) begin efforts to establish safety standards for these emerging classes of vessels. Because existing federal regulations were never intended to address eFoils and jetboards, the USCG has asked

ABYC to develop clear guidance for manufacturers and importers to ensure the safety of the boating public.

An eFoil uses an underwater wing to lift the board and rider above the water as it gains speed, creating a flying sensation. Jetboards operates more like a traditional surfboard, using waterjet propulsion to skim across the surface of the water.

Earlier this year, the ABYC held an exploratory meeting during its annual Standards Week to evaluate the need for new manufacturing standards for these vessels. Participants at the meeting agreed on the necessity of developing an ABYC Technical Information Report as the first step. Key areas of interest include:

- Emergency cut-off switch (ECOS) mechanisms

“the USCG has asked ABYC to develop clear guidance for manufacturers and importers to ensure the safety of the boating public”

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“ABYC and the USCG encourages all industry leaders, manufacturers, technical experts, and other interested parties to participate”

- Vessel capacity limits
- Battery and electrical system safety
- On-product warnings and labeling

The USCG has already issued a policy letter classifying eFoils and jetboards as vessels, making them subject to federal laws. This includes requirements for a Hull Identification Number (HIN), carrying a certificate of number (registration), and having essential safety equipment like personal flotation devices (PFDs) and sound-producing devices. ABYC and the USCG encourages all industry leaders, manufacturers, technical experts, and other interested parties to

participate in the ongoing development of this important new Technical Information Report. For more information, or to find out how to get involved in the development of this new standard, please contact the ABYC Standards & Compliance Department at tech@abycinc.org.



The United States Coast Guard Launches the 2026 National Recreational Boating Safety Survey

The survey is the only source for recreational boating data in all 50 states and informs about safety and security on the water.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is launching the 2026 National Recreational Boating Safety Survey (NRBSS), which will provide detailed estimates in every state of how many people go boating, what types of boats they use, and how often they go boating. This survey is funded under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the USCG.

The survey supports national safety and law enforcement programs by improving boating safety. The 2026 NRBSS is particularly important as it is the first time the survey has been conducted since 2020 when the industry saw a rise in boating as an outdoor activity across the country. The Coast Guard has regularly conducted the survey since 1973, and it was last conducted in 2018.

“The NRBSS has an extensive history of giving important insight into how people are boating in waterways across the country,” said Captain Brent Schmadeke,

Office Chief, Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary & Boating Safety, United States Coast Guard. “The findings are critical in guiding the Coast Guard’s security efforts to keep boating safe and enjoyable for everyone.”

The survey is being conducted via cooperative agreement by NORC at the University of Chicago, a nonpartisan research organization that has been conducting impactful research and analysis for more than 80 years. Over the next year, NORC will interview more than 50,000 households across all 50 states and the District of Columbia to gather information from individuals who own or rent boats. The results will provide valuable information to national, state, and local agencies through both national and state-level estimates.

Selected households will be invited throughout the year to participate in the study via invitation letters, postcards, emails, and text messages. Those who receive an invitation are encouraged to participate to have their voice heard.

Boaters also have a chance to sign-up and be randomly selected to receive a survey throughout the year. To sign-up,

“The results will provide valuable information to national, state, and local agencies ”

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“Participating will help the United States Coast Guard keep our rivers, oceans, and other waterways safe.”

survey throughout the year. To sign-up, please visit this [link](#) and fill out the short registration form.

Participating will help the United States Coast Guard keep our rivers, oceans, and other waterways safe. Respondent information will be held in the strictest confidence and will be grouped to produce statistical summaries.

The U.S. Coast Guard is the national coordinator for the National Recreational Boating Safety Program, established by the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971. This foundational act empowers the Coast Guard to enhance safety on our nation's waterways by setting standards for boat construction, improving accident investigations and reporting, and providing crucial financial assistance to programs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and six U.S. territories. Through the Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, the Recreational Boating Safety Program remains a cornerstone of our commitment to ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all recreational boaters. The National Recreational Boating Safety Program estimates 95,000 lives have been saved since the Program's inception. The most recent year of information recorded the fewest deaths in the Program's history. For more information about the NRBSS, visit <https://uscgboating.org/statistics/national-recreational-boating-safety-survey.php>.

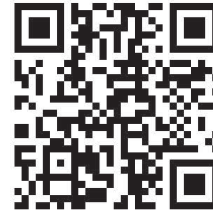
For further assistance or questions, contact onthewater@norc.org or SMB-COMDT-CG-BSX-Data@uscg.mil.

Websites and Resources

Survey registration link:

https://norcfed.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0ezfBlrTYxLdG4e

Or:



National Recreational Boating Safety Survey:

<https://uscgboating.org/statistics/national-recreational-boating-safety-survey.php>

USCG StoryMap Overview:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/88843802027049299d25ae755b724ccd>

NORC Project Page:

<https://www.norc.org/research/projects/the-national-recreational-boating-safety-survey.html>

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Compliance Inspectors

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 here for the most current assignments: <https://safeafloat.com/your-factory-inspector/>

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Calendar of Events

American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC)

Risk Mitigation Series 10	Virtual	05/13/2026
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ABYC Online Training: https://abycinc.org/events/event_list.asp

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)

2026 Operation Dry Water	Nationwide	07/03/2026 - 07/05/2026
Annual Conference	Knoxville, TN	09/15/2026 - 09/17/2026

National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)

American Boating Congress (ABC)	Washington, DC	05/04/2026 - 05/06/2026
International Boatbuilders Exhibition and Conference (IBEX) Trade Show	Tampa, Florida	10/06/2026 - 10/08/2026

Boat and Trade Shows: [Worldwide Boat Show Calendar \(nmma.org\)](http://Worldwide Boat Show Calendar (nmma.org))

General

International Boating & Water Safety Summit	Virtual	05/07/2026 - 05/08/2026
National Safe Boating Week	Nationwide	05/16/2026 - 05/22/2026

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)

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

2025

FLOE INTERNATIONAL INC

Campaign #	25MF0572
Year:	2026
Model(s):	Varatti Z2272, Varatti Z2373, Varatti Z2474
Problem:	Improper overcurrent protection for bow thruster due to improper wiring

2026

THE MARINE GROUP

Campaign #	26MF0078
Year:	2026
Model(s):	Largo X, Lago V, Lago Z
Problem:	Windshield glass detachment

VOLVO PENTA

Campaign #	26MF0158
Model(s):	Volvo Penta Autopilot
Problem:	Autopilot deviations in vessel trajectory when using "Route Following" function in certain geographical areas.

White River Marine Group

Campaign #	26MF0171
Year:	2026
Model(s):	Mako Apex 24 and 226
Problem:	Defect in the installation of the grounding Bonding wire.

Brunswick Family Boat Co. Inc.

Campaign #	26MF0172
Year:	2024 - 2026
Model(s):	Bayliner D20
Problem:	Improper placement of flotation foam

Brunswick Family Boat Co. Inc.

Campaign #	26MF0173
Year:	2024 - 2026
Model(s):	Bayliner D20i & D22i
Problem:	Bilge ventilation and ignition protection

Bertram Yachts LLC

Campaign #	26MF0182
Year:	2021 - 2026
Model(s):	28CC, 34CC, 39CC, 28XC
Problem:	Fuel tank seal affecting ignition protection