



# Industry Update on ABP

We would like to take this opportunity to update industry on what is happening with the Australian Builders Plate for Recreational Boats (ABP).

The ABP, which applies to all new recreational boats including those imported into Australia, is being introduced to provide information to boat users on a boat's capacity and capability to encourage safer boating.

Development of the ABP follows extensive consultation over the last five years with the boating industry, including manufacturers, designers and dealers, through surveys, workshops and consultation meetings.

The ABP is being adopted by industry at the moment, prior to it becoming mandatory from 1 July 2006. Most states and the Northern Territory will be amending their marine legislation to bring the ABP requirements into force with Tasmania and Western Australia also using their consumer legislation to introduce the standards.

As a result of recent industry consultation, the NMSC has made some amendments to the ABP standard. These amendments, which were endorsed by Ministers of the Australian Transport Council on 18 November 2005, are included in Edition 3 of the ABP Standard and can be accessed from [www.nmsc.gov.au](http://www.nmsc.gov.au). Please note that Edition 3 replaces all earlier editions of the standard. The amendments include:

**The name of the standard** used to determine the information on the plate is now to be shown on the plate *for example* "Information determined - AS 1799" or "Information determined – ISO 14945-2004"

**Examples of further optional warning statements** have been included in the standard. For example, for flybridge boats, it would be appropriate to include a warning regarding the maximum passenger numbers to be carried on the flybridge.

**The maximum load definition** has been clarified. It includes persons, maximum outboard engine weight (including auxiliary engines), as well as carry-on equipment such as personal equipment, personal safety equipment, spare parts, tools, dry provisions, fishing tackle, portable tanks and their contents. It does not include the mass of the contents of fixed fuel and water tanks when full.

**The symbols for maximum load** have also been clarified. On boats with an outboard engine, the person, suitcase symbol and engine symbol together represent the maximum load.

If displayed, **the build date** specified details the year of production only. (This will allow manufacturers to pre-purchase a plates for the year, rather than month by month.)

## ***Model Legislation***

There have also been changes to the model legislation (following submissions from industry groups). These changes include,

**A penalty** will now be introduced against any-one in the production and distribution chain, who sells a new boat without an ABP. In most instances, this will ensure that the **builder** has attached the plate when it is first sold in the distribution chain.

**Persons authorised to approve information** on ABPs include the builder, importer, or a **competent** person, who must also be legal entities in Australia. A competent person is a person who has acquired through training, qualification and/or experience, the knowledge and skills to determine and approve information on an ABP.

**Owner Built** boats will be required to affix an ABP and will not be given any exemptions.

## ***Response to Misinformation***

NMSC has sent out a media release to respond to comments in the marketplace by boat plan retailer and consultant Brian Poole, with whom we have had a lengthy dialogue about the ABP. Details from this are on our website.

## ***Further Information***

Attached is an illustration of the ABP, with explanatory notes. An electronic copy can be downloaded from [www.nmsc.gov.au](http://www.nmsc.gov.au).

The Australian Marine Industries Federation (AMIF) provides online facilities for ordering plates at [www.amif.asn.au](http://www.amif.asn.au).

If you would like further information, please go to our web site or call (02) 9247 2124.

Kind Regards



Maurene Horder  
**Chief Executive Officer**

National Marine Safety Committee Inc  
Level 5, 9-13 Young Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
PO Box R1871, Royal Exchange NSW 1225  
Tel: (02) 9247 2124 Fax: (02) 9247 5203

E-mail: [secretariat@nmsc.gov.au](mailto:secretariat@nmsc.gov.au)

Website: [www.nmsc.gov.au](http://www.nmsc.gov.au)