



PRESS RELEASE



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Classic Accessories Supports Boating Safety by Joining ABYC

Kent, Wash. / 2008 – Classic Accessories is pleased to announce that it has joined the American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC), a nonprofit marine safety standards and technical workforce education organization serving the boating industry around the globe. By becoming a member of ABYC, Classic Accessories has validated its commitment to both safe boating standards and practices, as well as to better customer service through support of ABYC’s education and professional marine certification program.

ABYC’s membership of approximately 4,800 is made up of boat builders, surveyors, boat yards, insurance companies, marinas, dealerships, government agencies, equipment and accessory manufacturers and marine enthusiasts. The organization 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) as well as education and certification programs for marine technicians.

Membership in ABYC will give Classic Accessories the opportunity to participate in the standards development process, as well as provide access to technical experts and the opportunity for professional training for its employees. It will also ensure conformance with industry standards, helping to improve boating safety.

“Use of the ABYC standards and participation in the educational programs can serve as a strategic and tangible asset for an organization,” says Skip Burdon, ABYC’s President. “ABYC’s voluntary standards and membership help define the requirements to which the entire industry should be striving to use as a guide for safer, better-built and repaired products, and we thank Classic Accessories for recognizing this by joining our organization.”

For more information about Classic Accessories, please visit our Web site at www.classicaccessories.com. For more information about ABYC membership or its certification programs, please visit www.abycinc.org.

About Classic Accessories, Inc.: Classic Accessories is the nation’s largest supplier of innovative textile products that cover, protect and organize outdoor related gear. Headquartered in Kent, Wash. and with offices in Hong Kong, Classic Accessories products are sold throughout the United States and Canada.

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American Boat & Yacht Council



For over 50 years, ABYC, a not-for-profit organization, has been developing, writing and updating the **Safety Standards** for boat building and repair in the United States. As a result of strong industry and government support, ABYC's voluntary, consensus-based standards have evolved into a viable alternative to mandatory government regulation of the marine industry.

- Industry use ABYC standards in all phases of development, production, and maintenance of boats and their accessories.
- *ABYC Standards and Technical Information Reports* is the basis for certification programs, marine surveys and inspections.
- ABYC standards enable marine industry professionals to support decisions on design, construction, and installation of equipment.
- ABYC standards increase consumer confidence in product safety.

Members also receive technical assistance from the experienced staff at ABYC, which ensures they receive accurate and timely information on all aspects of the marine industry, as well as advanced information and updates to the standards.

Over 400 member volunteers from all fields of the marine industry, as well as the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and private boat owners, participate on 17 project technical

committees that develop and revise the *ABYC Standards and Technical Information Reports*. The Standards have become a necessary resource for anyone involved in the marine industry.

In addition to developing standards, ABYC offers a comprehensive **Education Program**. ABYC offers over 25 education programs a year to help improve the skills of marine professionals, with topics ranging from Electrical Systems to Accident Investigation, just to name a few. The Education program also has an On-Site training program and some online educational opportunities.

ABYC also created a **Certification Program** that is designed to improve the quality and professionalism of boat maintenance and repair. The certification program provides standards-based, continuing technical education for marine technicians throughout the industry. The certification program consists of courses covering important technical areas such as:

- Electrical
- Refrigeration / AC
- Engines & Support Systems
- Composite Boat Building
- Marine Corrosion.

In addition to these courses, ABYC offers a three day **Standards Accreditation** Course, which is a comprehensive look at the key ABYC standards.

In an effort to better serve the education and professional

industry, ABYC is also affiliated with the **Westlawn Institute of Marine Technology**. Founded in 1930, Westlawn is the only nationally accredited and state certified distance-learning school of small-craft design in the United States.

ABYC is a leader in promoting boating safety through its **Partnerships** with other organizations. Internationally, ABYC works closely with the Canadian Coast Guard and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). In the U.S., ABYC coordinates efforts with organizations such as the USCG, National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), Marine Retailers Association of America (MRAA), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and many more!

The foundation for the **NMMA Boat & Yacht Certification** program also consists of both federal regulations and adopted ABYC standards for all key areas related directly to safety. Consumers should look for the "NMMA Using ABYC Standards" label when purchasing a new boat. ABYC is a proud partner and supporter of this program.

Visit
www.abycinc.org
for more
information!
