



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Caroline Chetelat, (410) 990-4460, x22
cchetelat@abycinc.org

ABYC Electrical Certification Now Included in the Garmin Warranty Program

March 11, 2009, Annapolis, MD: The American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) and Garmin International, Inc. recently signed a three-year cooperative agreement whereby ABYC's Electrical Certification course will be recognized as a prerequisite for performing approved warranty and/or rebate work on the company's marine electronic products. Going forward, the warranty information will be updated to inform customers that in order for the warranty to apply, one of the criteria a customer must meet is to have the marine equipment installed by an ABYC Certified Electrical technician.

The ABYC Electrical Certification course is designed for the experienced marine technician. Course topics include electrical theory, lead-acid batteries, using a multi-meter, battery testing, generator sets, inverters, grounding and bonding systems, troubleshooting and more. The class concludes with a 200-question certification exam.

"Garmin is pleased to be working with the ABYC to offer this certification to customers," said Gregory DeVries, Garmin's director of marine sales and marketing. "While our award winning marine network systems are renowned for their simplicity of operation, the integration and installation of these advanced systems has grown increasingly complex and understanding these systems is critical to a successful installation. This certification gives customers confidence in knowing that the equipment will be installed properly, and more importantly – provide years of trouble-free service."

Mike New, ABYC Education Director commented, "ABYC has been a leader in marine industry workforce certification for 20 years. This is the first time an electronics company has accepted our electrical certification as a threshold credential and we invite industry partners to follow suit" New continued, "Garmin recognizes that the secret to successful electronic installations is assuring that the installer or technician knows the entire marine electrical system on any given boat – AC and DC. Boats vary greatly; however, using ABYC Electrical Certified technicians assures Garmin that the installer has a thorough understanding of marine electrical systems. It also assures them that the installer has the ability to apply their knowledge on the job, and thereby achieve exceptional performance from all Garmin products."

— more —

A person can earn the ABYC Electrical Certified credential by attending an ABYC class and taking the certification exam, by testing only, or through electrical training offered by one of the Marine League schools, which uses ABYC curriculum and certifications in their programs. To find class and testing information, or for more information on the Marine League schools, visit www.abycinc.org.

ABYC has been developing, writing and updating the safety standards for boat building and repair in the United States for 55 years. ABYC is actively involved with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) as well as education and certification programs for marine technicians. These standards are available on CD-ROM, online (*Web-STIR* and the *ABYC Standards Powered by Rulefinder.net*) and in printed form. Membership and general information can be requested by visiting the ABYC Web site at www.abycinc.org.