

For Immediate Release
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ABYC Unveils Enhanced Online Standards Product “ABYC Standards Powered by Rulefinder.net”

October 7, 2008, Annapolis, MD: The American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) has recently launched the enhanced version of the ABYC Standards *Powered by Rulefinder.net*. This innovative product provides boatbuilders, component manufacturers and other industry professionals with an online, single-source library of global boat building standards. The ABYC Standards *Powered by Rulefinder.net* is available to ABYC members only, and includes: access to the most current ABYC Standards on the Rulefinder.net platform; access to the USCG *Rules & Regulations for Recreational Craft*; all five USCG Compliance Guidelines; access to the ABYC Standards revised in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007; and ABYC Comparison Reports that highlight the differences between the new and old ABYC Standards.

As promised, the Phase II features of the product have been added in time for this year’s IBEX, and include an ABYC to International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards cross-referencing feature and a Project Management module that allows users to create categorized folders to store or export boat model engineering data. Furthermore, it provides linked calculation sheets that provide access to the requirements, along with interactive calculation sheets to quickly evaluate compliance and allow for uniformity in the application of the ABYC Standards – all at one site.

The screenshot displays the 'ABYC STANDARDS' application interface. On the left is a navigation pane with a tree view containing folders like 'Project folders', 'Templates', and 'H-5 Calculation sheets'. The main area shows a form titled 'H-5 Monohull Boats - Weight and Persons Capacity'. The form is divided into sections: 'GENERAL' (Manufacturer, City, Country, Head of Engineering), 'BOAT DATA' (CIN Model Year, Model Name, Model Year, Type of boat, Propulsion, Maximum power, Boat weight, Boat speed), and 'Outboard engine and related equipment weights according to 4.30 Table 1' (Requested persons capacity, Occupant positions underway). Each field has an input box or dropdown menu. At the bottom, there is an 'AREA OF SECTIONS' bar.

Online Calculation Sheet

— more —

In addition to providing ABYC Standards on this platform, Rulefinder.net provides industry professionals with the opportunity to purchase additional global standards to include ISO (International Organization for Standardization) standards, the EU (European Union) Directives, Guidelines for CE (European Conformity) marking, and the recently added Australian/New Zealand standards in a web-based platform. Users of this product are in essence opening the door to a fully digital, global standards library that runs online.

Created using XML (Extensible Markup Language), a simple yet powerful and flexible program, no other industry provides this type of multiple standards accessibility and utility, while saving the user time and money. For a FREE five day demo, please visit www.abycinc.org and click on the *ABYC Standards Powered by Rulefinder.net* logo. Or, you can stop by the Rulefinder.net booth at IBEX to also see a demonstration of the product.

The price for *ABYC Standards Powered by Rulefinder.net* for the first year is U.S. \$495.00 for one user, with an additional licenses available for multiple users for \$159.00. After that, there is an annual renewal fee of U.S. \$395.00, plus the extra licenses fee if applicable. Discounted ABYC member pricing for the ISO and EU documents can be found by clicking on the “Online Standards Access” menu button on the ABYC Web site (www.abycinc.org).

ABYC will continue to offer the standards in the new soft cover blue manual, CD and the basic online version (*Web-STIR*). For information on how to join ABYC or purchase the *ABYC Standards Powered by Rulefinder.net*, please call the ABYC office at (410) 990-4460, or visit the ABYC Web site at www.abycinc.org and click the “Online Standards Access” menu button.

ABYC 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. These standards are available on CD, 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.