

ABYC Goes Paper ‘Less’ “Primary Access to 2010 Standards: Online 24/7 using WebSTIR”

June 28, 2010, Annapolis, MD: The American Boat and Yacht Council announced today that commencing late July the primary method of accessing the newest edition of the Standards and Technical Information Reports for Small Craft will be the new WebSTIR; an enhanced 24/7 online electronic format. All ABYC members will have unlimited access to WebSTIR on the 'Members Only' side of the ABYC web site as part of their annual membership fee. This decision was made after analyzing multiple factors including: standards delivery trends across industries and around the globe; set-up, printing, and processing costs for both paper and CD versions; and what ABYC calls “our environmental obligation to support and promote an eco-conscious business model.”

Both the paper manual and CD version of the standards will remain available for purchase at an initial annual fee of \$69.95 plus shipping and processing (s/p). According to ABYC’s President, Skip Burdon, this price represents an overall reduction from the previous price of \$149.00 plus s/p for a second method of receiving the standards. Additional WebSTIR user licenses will also be priced at \$69.95. To order additional copies of any format, members are encouraged to call ABYC at 410 990-4460, x32 or x43, or, visit the ship’s store at www.abycinc.org. Students attending any of the Marine League of Schools, *The Landing School* and other educational institutions that use the manual as a text book may still order the paper version while supplies last, as well as receive a WebSTIR site license as part of their membership. Only 600 copies of the paper version and 500 CDs will be made available for purchase. Therefore, ABYC recommends placing orders now for the 2010 paper and CD versions of the standards.

This year, ABYC is also making the *Standards and Technical Information Reports for Small Craft* available to non-members for \$475.00 each plus shipping and processing. ABYC sees many benefits arising from the universal transition to WebSTIR for the 21st Century. According to ABYC, the new enhanced WebSTIR version of the ABYC Standards has been significantly upgraded and made more user-friendly, in-part, because it now is powered by *Rulefinder.net*.

According to Skip Burdon, ABYC’s President, “WebSTIR now contains more information than previous paper editions of the standards. Included at no additional fee in WebSTIR 2010 are: the new and revised ABYC Standards, the USCG's Rules *and Regulations*(33 CFR), the USCG Compliance Guidelines, the new EPA emissions regulations, and archived standards documenting all the changes made in the ABYC Standards since 2003. And, users will now be able to copy and paste individual standards into your documents as necessary. In short, you get a bigger bang for your buck by transitioning to WebSTIR.”

According to ABYC, WebSTIR also provides users with access to that information in an easy to use, streamlined format. Current WebSTIR users will likely be impressed with *Rulefinder*, the new XML platform and the new features not previously available using the previous format. New users should also be pleased with the user-friendly 24/7 convenience and the expanded capabilities of an electronic version.

By no later than July 31, 2010, current and active members need only login to the 'Members Only' side of the ABYC web site. Once there, entry into WebSTIR is a simple mouse click away. To login to the ABYC 'Members Only' area, members will need their **personal ID** number, (not the company ID), and their password. For members who have changed and/or forgotten their password, they need only email the webmaster at 'Member Only' login. To protect a member's account, the email address for that request must match the ABYC email address of record. Call ABYC if you have any questions.

During ABYC's transition to enhanced electronic communications as the ABYC's primary interface, they encourage members to keep their ABYC contact information up to date including their current email address. Without access to one's personal ID, ABYC stated that members will be unable to access online offerings, products and services. To update, simply send ABYC's Membership Director, Judith Ramsey an email at jramsey@abycinc.org with your revised contact information and email address.

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 online using *WebSTIR* powered by *Rulefinder.net*, and on CD and in printed format for an additional fee. Membership and general information can be requested by visiting the ABYC Web site at www.abycinc.org.