

MEDIA RELEASE

STANDARDS
Australia



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Launch and other photos available 24 Nov from media contacts.

National organisations team up for new power boat standard

The National Marine Safety Committee (NMSC), under successful arrangements with Standards Australia, has produced and published a new edition of the Australian Standard for the safety aspects of power boats.

The revised Australian Standard, *AS1799.1 Small craft – General Requirements for Power Boats* is a key reference document for the Australian Builders Plate (ABP). It covers buoyancy, stability, fire protection and a range of other safety aspects for recreational boats up to 15 metres in length.

Standards Australia's Chairman, Mr John Castles AM, and NMSC's Chairman, Mr Neil Aplin, today co-launched the newly revised Australian Standard in Sydney following an NMSC committee* meeting.

John Castles commended the NMSC's technical team's work in managing the project through Standards Australia's 'bureau' pathway for Standards development that is available under its new business model.

"Devolving standards development to bureaus working in specific fields is common practice amongst our equivalent bodies in Europe and North America, but is relatively new to Australia," Mr Castles said.

"With constant growth in the recreational boating sector, the revision of this Standard was necessary, and who better than the National Maritime Safety Committee to lead development of this Standard – it's a natural fit," said Mr Castles.

NMSC's Chairman Neil Aplin welcomed the arrangement to lead the development of this Australian Standard as it provides NMSC with an additional and valuable option in its range of small craft safety solutions – and a link for input to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

"Alliances such as these lead to the best technical standard to support regulation in the boating sector," Mr Aplin said, "and they're another important component in the move towards a single national scheme for marine safety."

“Positive feedback from industry already indicates that the revised standard has been well received,” he added.

NMSC’s CEO Ms Margie O’Tarpey further commented that a standard designed around Australian conditions has proven its worth over many years.

“This is especially the case for ‘tinnies’ and other boats made just for use in Australia – these make up the largest portion of the recreational fleet,” Ms O’Tarpey said.

“In the case of recreational craft, only certain key safety requirements like maximum engine size and load capacity, as well as buoyancy in new boats under six metres in length are intended to be regulated,” she said, “however, there is also the need to have other aspects of good safety practice documented in a technical standard to guide boat designers, builders and purchasers”.

The new Australian Standard’s approach to achieving safe outcomes takes account of technical developments. Changes include raising the body mass per person from 75kg to 80 kg, increasing outboard engine mass specifications to take account of current engine designs and a new practical test for level flotation with swamped stability.

Copies of AS 1799.1-2009 are available from SAI Global or complimentary copies for private use can also be downloaded from the National Standards section of the NMSC website www.nmsc.gov.au

** The **NMSC** aims to achieve nationally uniform marine safety practices and is made up of an Independent Chair and the CEOs of Australia’s marine safety agencies.*

***Standards Australia** is recognised by the Government as Australia’s peak Standards body. It coordinates standardisation activities and develops internationally aligned Australian Standards that deliver Net Benefit to Australia. Under its ‘bureau’ pathway for developing Australian Standards, Standards Australia supports organisations, where appropriate, to lead development activities in accordance with rigorous development processes.*

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