



For Immediate Release
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ABYC to Publish Technical Amendment to the 2008 ABYC Electrical Standard, E-11

June 1, 2009, Annapolis, MD: The American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) will be publishing a Technical Amendment to the July 2008 version of ABYC's Electrical Standard, E-11, *AC & DC Electrical Systems on Boats*. The Amendment only applies to section E-11.11.1 and its subsections, and specifically addresses a new device called the Equipment Leakage Circuit Interrupter (ELCI). This Amendment will appear in the upcoming 2009 – 2010 edition of the *ABYC Standards and Technical Information Reports for Small Craft*, which is provided to ABYC members by July 31, annually.

The Amendment will appear as a "Note" in the soon to be released edition of the ABYC Standards, both in the leading paragraph and prior to the section E-11.11.1, and read as follows:

"NOTE July 2009 Technical Amendment: Based on ABYC's assessment of the existing technology regarding the Equipment Leakage Circuit Interrupter (ELCI), E-11.11.1 and its subparts carry a recommended compliance date of July 31, 2010."

As stated above, the recommended compliance date for section E-11.11.1 has been extended by one year to July 31, 2010. The recommended compliance date for *all other* portions of the July 2008 version of E-11 remains July 31, 2009. E-11 is on a three-year review cycle and will be re-published again in July 2011.

John Adey, ABYC's Technical Director explained, "The ELCI device is a new concept, based on existing technologies. Several manufacturers are committed to producing ELCI units that meet the needs of the builders and the requirements of E-11's 2008 version. However, ABYC's Technical Board of Directors and the Electrical Project Technical Committee (PTC) agree that an additional year is needed to incorporate the 30, 50 and 100 ampere ELCI units into boats." Adey continued, "Although the ELCI manufacturers are already promising some products within weeks, this is too late to consider keeping the original July 31, 2009 recommended compliance date. Not only do the devices have to be sourced by boat manufacturers, but they have to be engineered into the designs of boats."

ABYC has over 400 volunteers that participate in the standards development process, and is always in need of

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more. There are 16 project technical committees (PTC's) dealing with 66 standards. If you are interested in the ABYC standards development process, please visit the ABYC web site at www.abycinc.org. Click on Standards & Technical Reports. Click on Purpose and Scope to review and determine which documents interest you. Then let us know which documents you are interested in following by emailing Helen Koepper, ABYC Technical Department Coordinator at hkoepper@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.