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Media Release

Australian Builders Plate – Have Your Say

The National Marine Safety Committee (NMSC) has just released a discussion paper to encourage feedback from industry and interested parties on the model legislation for the Australian Builders Plate (ABP) for recreational boats.

NMSC CEO Maurene Horder said this was a chance for any-one interested or involved in the recreational boating industry to have their say about the ABP model provisions which will be developed into legislation.

The ABP standard requires a plate to be fitted to certain recreational vessels from 1 July 2005. The plate details vital information on uses and limitations of boats including the maximum number of people and load allowed, engine rating and weight and buoyancy performance.

“The ABP brings us one step closer to making the industry safer, and the information detailed on the plate will help members of the public to choose the boat that best suits their needs,” Ms Horder said.

“The manufacturing sector of the industry has been very supportive of the ABP and we are currently consulting with the wider industry to get their feedback on the Legislative Intent Discussion paper.”

All new recreational vessels need to affix an ABP except for: second hand vessels, amphibious vessels, canoes, kayaks, or surf skis, pedal powered boats, rowing shells, sailboards or sail kites, surf row boats, hydrofoils or hovercraft, sailing vessels, submersibles, aquatic toys and inflatable boats. Vessels constructed before July 1 2005 do not need an ABP.

There are two types of ABP, one for boats under 6 metres in length (that requires a buoyancy statement) and one for boats 6 metres and over (which does not require a buoyancy statement).

Ms Horder said that by 2006 most new recreational boats built or imported for use in Australia must have basic buoyancy.

“We define basic buoyancy as meaning that the boat will float in some form when swamped - either bow up, or if capsized, the boat will continue to float hull up.

“Level buoyancy means the boat will continue to float in an upright position when swamped and will resist capsize.”

As a service to manufacturers, the Australian Marine Industries Federation (AMIF) provides on line facilities for ordering plates. Plates are supplied with customised details already printed, including buoyancy levels, maximum HP and loads.

The next briefing for boat builders and dealers on the proposed legislation for the Australian Builders Plate will be held at the Sanctuary Cove Boat Show on Thursday 19 May at 11.45 am until 1.00pm.

For further information on briefings for the Australian Builders Plate please call the National Marine Safety Committee on (02) 9247 2124 or email secretariat@nmsc.gov.au. To download a full copy of the discussion paper, please go to www.nmsc.gov.au and follow the links.

Ends

For further information, please contact Maurene Horder or Ursula Bishop on (02) 9247 2124.