



NMSC Update

April 26 2006

IMPORTERS REQUIRED TO AFFIX AN ABP

Importers are one of the few groups authorised to approve information on an Australian Builders Plate for Recreational Boats (ABP) which is set to become mandatory this year for all new Australian made and imported recreational boats.

According to National Marine Safety Committee CEO Maurene Horder, only a builder, importer or competent person, who are legal entities in Australia can supply and approve information on an ABP.

“Once the ABP is introduced into legislation later this year, it will be the responsibility of dealers and importers to have accurate plates for all new recreational boats that they sell to consumers,” she explained.

The ABP applies to most new recreational and imported boats and details information in an easily understood format, from the maximum number of people and load allowed to engine rating and weight.

Two types of ABP have been developed, one for boats under 6 metres, which includes a buoyancy statement, and one for boats 6 metres or more, which does not include a buoyancy statement. From July 1 2006, new boats less than 6 metres must have either basic or level buoyancy, as inadequate buoyancy will no longer be acceptable.

Ms Horder confirmed that boats with an NMMA or CE plate will still require an ABP.

“The importer can affix a supplementary plate containing the additional information required eg buoyancy statement and mandatory warning statement.

However, the person approving the information has to sign off on both the supplementary ABP and the original plate. “

“The only circumstance where a boat with an NMMA or CE plate won’t need an ABP is if all information adheres to the ABP standard and the person who approved the plate is a legal entity in Australia.”

Ms Horder went on to say that dealers or importers who modify a new boat before it’s sold to consumers will have to make sure that the information on the plate is still correct and may need to have a new plate affixed if any details need to be updated.

“Most boat builders have developed sets of “standard customization options” that reflect purchaser demands which means that the dealer can option up to that level without having to alter the ABP.”

New boats that will not need a plate when sold include: second hand boats; aquatic toys; amphibious vehicles; canoes, kayaks or similar boats designed to be paddle-powered; surf skis; hydrofoils or hovercraft; pedal powered boats; personal watercraft carrying no more

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than two people; racing boats; rowing shells used for racing or rowing training; sailboards; sailing boats; submersibles and surf row boats.

The Australian Marine Industries Federation (AMIF) provides on line facilities for ordering plates (www.amif.asn.au). Plates are supplied with customised details already printed, including buoyancy levels, maximum HP and loads.

For more information on the Australian Builders Plate for recreational boats, log onto the NMSC web site at www.nmsc.gov.au and follow the links to the ABP page.

Ends

For further information call NMSC communications officer Ursula Bishop on 0412 813 056.