



American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC)
613 Third St. Suite 10 • Annapolis, MD 21403
410-990-4460 • www.abycinc.org

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Media contact: Shannon Aronson, saronson@abycinc.org, 410.990.4460 x105



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Caption: ABYC Standards Week is an annual gathering of experts from around the world to update and improve boating safety standards.

ABYC to Host 2026 Standards Week in Charleston

Jan. 11-15, marine industry leaders will gather to update and advance global boating safety standards

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 12, 2025) – The American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing safety standards for the design, construction, maintenance and repair of boats, has announced dates for its annual Standards Week, Jan. 11-15, 2026, at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina.

ABYC standards are regularly reviewed by more than 400 marine industry volunteers to reflect new technology, safety research and best practices. Each is evaluated at least every five years, and an annual supplement to the

Standards and Technical Information Reports for Small Craft incorporates the latest updates to major systems such as electrical, fuel and other critical components. Standards Week is the culmination of this process, bringing Project Technical Committees (PTCs) together daily to discuss proposed new and revised standards.

“With the recent release of Supplement 65, now is the perfect time to get involved,” said Brian Goodwin, ABYC technical director. “Standards Week participants help shape the next updates, gain an edge in new product development, and enjoy unmatched connections with the industry’s top experts and safety advocates.”

The week also features ABYC’s annual meeting on the evening of Jan. 12, offering a recap of the year’s highlights along with cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and networking with fellow industry professionals.

Registration opens in September. Attendees are encouraged to reserve hotel rooms under ABYC’s room block now to receive the discounted rate. For updates, visit www.abycinc.org/standardsweek.

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Since 1954, the nonprofit American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) has developed safety standards for boat design, construction, equipage, repair and maintenance. The essential global source of marine industry technical information, ABYC's product safety standards, credentialing, education, training, and other tools help members make boating safer.