

Understanding Flotation



Recreational power boats measuring less than 6 metres in length must be fitted with either 'basic' or 'level' flotation.

Basic flotation

Basic Flotation ensures that a boat is fitted with enough flotation to keep the vessel floating in some form (typically upturned and largely submerged) in the case of swamping or capsizing. In this circumstance, the occupants will be partially submerged in the water, clinging to an upturned hull and risk becoming hypothermic or being exposed to other risks, such as hazardous marine life.



Level flotation

Level Flotation ensures that a boat is fitted with adequate and well-located flotation, meaning the vessel should float level with the waterline, providing a safer place of refuge in the case of swamping or capsizing. If the vessel becomes swamped or flooded, it's less likely to capsize. Level flotation provides the best chance that occupants will not be submerged in water. It allows easier access to safety equipment and a greater opportunity for self-rescue by bailing water from the boat. Whether floating upright or upside down, level flotation ensures a larger target to be spotted by rescuers and a larger space for refuge than basic flotation.



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Maritime Safety Queensland's role is to protect Queensland's waterways and the people who use them—providing safer, cleaner seas.

We are responsible for:

- improving maritime safety for shipping and recreational craft through regulation and education
- minimising vessel-sourced waste and responding to marine pollution
- providing essential maritime services such as aids to navigation and vessel traffic services
- encouraging and supporting innovation in the maritime industry.



For more information on the latest ABP standard head to www.anzsbeg.com.au

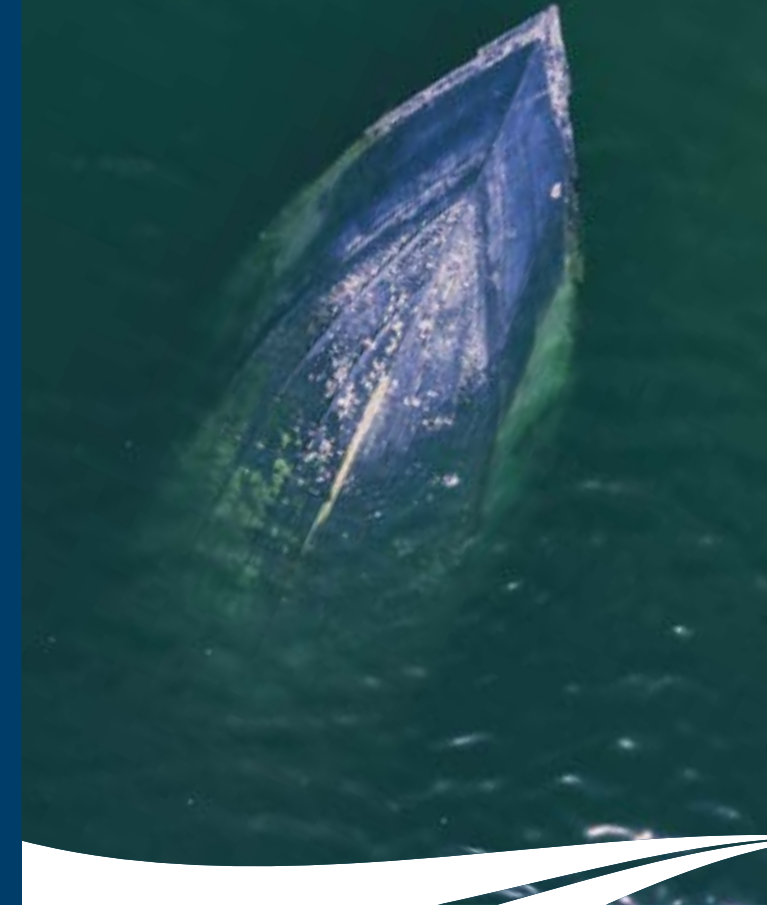
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Australian Builders Plate (ABP)

2022



What is an ABP?



The ABP is an information plate attached to most new powered recreational boats, including imported boats.



The ABP provides essential information to a boat's operator regarding the safe operation of a boat.

It includes information such as the boat's maximum loading capacity, maximum engine power and the flotation performance of the boat in the case of an emergency.



ABP information must be determined by a competent person (typically the boat manufacturer) in compliance with relevant national or international technical standards.



In 2020, Australian jurisdictions agreed to implement an updated version of the ABP standard, this is known as the ABP Standard Edition 5.



The fitting of ABPs to applicable boats is a legal requirement in all Australian states and territories.

What does an ABP look like?



All ABPs must display the following information:

- The boat builder, boat importer or a third party competent person.
- The build year and/ or hull identification number (HIN).
- Maximum outboard engine/s weight (if vessel is designed to be powered by an outboard engine/s).
- Maximum number and weight of persons.
- Maximum load (which for outboard powered boats includes the weight of all outboard engines, persons and equipment).
- For boats not designed to be powered by outboard engines, maximum load is gear and/or equipment that can be carried.
- Buoyancy performance (required only on vessels less than 6 metres long).
- Compulsory warning statement.
- Name of the standard used in determining the information on the ABP.
- Some ABPs may also display the following:
 - Optional warning statements.



* This is a sample of an ABP for a boat less than 6 meters with an outboard motor.

For further details, please refer to the National Standard for Australian Builders Plate for Recreational boats.

Which boats require an ABP?



An ABP is required to be fixed to a recreational powered boat that is supplied for sale, offered for sale or sold for the first time.

Boats built before September 2006, when the law was introduced, do not need an ABP. There are some other exceptions for special categories of boats – www.anzsbeg.com.au

Where do I look for a boat's ABP?



Boats which are required to have an Australian Builders Plate must display the plate in a prominent location, that's readily visible to the operator of the boat when they're getting underway. This will typically be in the cockpit, or near the primary seating position.

Maximum persons capacity



The maximum persons capacity is the recommended number of persons a boat can safely carry, based on mass, when operated within designated parameters (eg. protected waters and calm weather, or otherwise specified).

Boaters should never exceed the maximum kilogram mass of persons listed on an ABP. Exceeding the maximum loading capacity increases the risk of a boat sinking, swamping or capsizing. Furthermore, a boat may not be fitted with sufficient buoyancy to support masses exceeding its maximum loading capacity when swamped.