

RCC Marine Transport Working Group: Construction/Safety Standards for Small Craft Work Plan

Canada Lead: Gerard McDonald, Assistant Deputy Minister, Safety & Security, Transport Canada
 U.S. Lead: Peter Neffenger, Vice-Admiral, United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security

Preamble Text:

Align recreational boat safety standards and develop a proposal for aligning the monitoring and compliance regimes.

Timelines and Deliverables:

Action Plan Initiative	Align pleasure craft construction/recreational boat safety standards and develop a proposal for aligning the compliance monitoring and safety recall regimes.			
Deliverable outcome	Agree to compare the varying regulations and compliance programs and their impacts on safety and, if warranted, create a roadmap that may allow boat manufacturers to build to both regimes, as well as consider aligning compliance monitoring and safety recall regimes.			
Action items	Action Item 1: Align the regulations and standards for construction of pleasure craft/recreational boats.	Action Item 2: Align the compliance monitoring program.	Action Item 3: Develop a joint harmonized safety defects and recall program.	Action Item 4: Establish an ongoing alignment mechanism for standards, compliance monitoring, and safety recall programs.
	Interim Deliverables			
3-6 Months	Identify elements of cooperation and agreement between Canada and the U.S. on all applicable pleasure craft construction/recreational boat safety standards.	Review current Canada and U.S. procedures for compliance monitoring and produce draft paper noting differences.	Review U.S. safety defects and recall system (Canada currently has no recall program).	Identify scope and elements of a cooperative framework that would align standards, compliance monitoring, and safety recall approaches.

6-12 Months	Develop proposals and options paper for all elements and conduct gap analysis and agree on priority for alignment of requirements.	Develop proposal for harmonizing compliance monitoring processes, and consult interested third parties and stakeholders.	Develop proposal for a Canadian voluntary recall system aligned with the U.S. mandatory system.	Assess the necessary changes required to establish an ongoing alignment mechanism. Maximize the use of incorporation by reference of externally (e.g. industry) developed standards, to achieve permanent regulatory alignment for construction standards.
12-18 Months	Draft proposal for aligning the requirements under a new cooperative mechanism for vessel construction and consult interested parties.	Develop joint inspection checklist and produce guidance document for inspectors.	Consult interested third parties and stakeholders and develop procedures for putting such a system in place.	Establish priorities and develop a long term plan for permanent alignment of compliance monitoring and safety recall approach.
Beyond 18 Months	Reach final agreement on alignment of standards and proceed with appropriate adjustments.	Implement joint aligned compliance monitoring program.	Implement voluntary recall system that is harmonized with the U.S. system.	Implement cooperative framework (MOU) that allows for permanent alignment of standards, compliance monitoring, and safety recall programs.

Contact Information:

Transport Canada: Luc Tremblay, luc.tremblay@tc.gc.ca

U.S. Coast Guard: Jeff Hoedt, Jeff.N.Hoedt@uscg.mil; and Phil Cappel, Philip.J.Cappel@uscg.mil