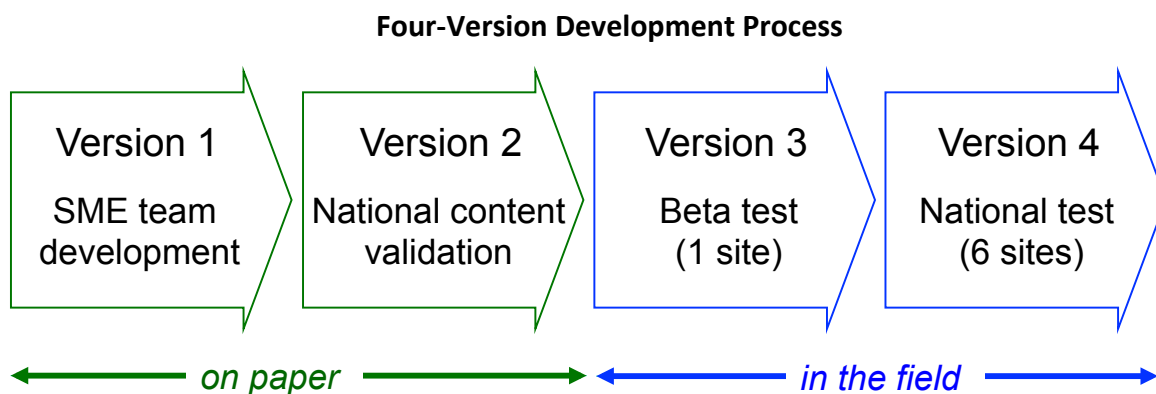


Overview

The process used to create national standards and rubrics for recreational boat operation involves developing four versions. This process is designed to help obtain the broad consensus needed to develop a national set of standards. It is also designed use the unique and deep knowledge, expertise, and experience from Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) within the domains of SAIL, POWER and HUMAN-propelled recreational boating in identifying high quality and effective standards that fit within a *National System of Standards for Recreational Boat Operation*. Standards Versions 1 and 2 are standards identified on paper. Versions 3 and 4 of the Standards, along with the Rubrics used to assess them are field-tested (on the water) to ensure their effectiveness for use on a national scale.

Once these high quality draft standards are prepared, they are ready to enter a process approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) that will result in their approval and publication as American National Standards. This final stage is lead by The American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) and involves the use of its ANSI-approved process for standards development.

The description below identifies the 4-version process used to prepare high-quality drafts for entrance into ABYC’s ANSI-approved process.



Versions 1 and 2: Establishing Broad Consensus

Versions 1 and 2 are developed with input from SMEs across SAIL, POWER, and HUMAN with the goal of creating broad agreement and consensus regarding the general content of the standards.

Version 1: SME Team Development

- A small team of SMEs from across the domains of SAIL, POWER, and HUMAN recreational boat operation use their in-depth knowledge, understanding, and experience to develop an agreed upon set of On-Water Standards for the domain. The team represents a diversity of individuals, groups, and organizations that will be materially affected by the development and application of national standards for recreational boat operation.

Standards Version 2: National Content Validation

- A national study is conducted on the content of the standards in Version 1 with a much larger group of SMEs from across the country and from across the domains of SAIL, POWER, and HUMAN recreational boat operation. This study is designed to help ensure content of the standards is comprehensive and does an effective job of identifying the skills associated with entry-level recreational boat operation within the particular domain. The involvement of larger numbers of SMEs from all three domains is designed to expand agreement and consensus on the content of the standards.

Versions 3 and 4: Ensuring Accuracy and Effectiveness

Versions 3 and 4 require a much deeper knowledge, understanding, and experience in recreational boat operation from each domain. The focus is to identify specific, high-level details about the skills, behaviors and proficiencies associated with the On-Water Standards, as well as the capacity to assess performance on those standards in the field. SMEs with the highest credentials in recreational boating instruction from around the country are involved in further developing the Standards along with the Rubrics used to assess performance on those Standards. The Standards, and their Rubrics, are field-tested with recreational boat operators to ensure their effectiveness at sorting safe from unsafe recreational boating proficiency at the entry level.

Version 3: Rubrics Development and Beta Testing

- Version 3 of the Standards includes the identification of Rubrics that will be used to assess performance on the standards. Rubrics are detailed descriptions of specific behaviors associated with performance of each skill identified within the Standards. They identify three levels of proficiency: Successful Performance, Needs Improvement, and Unacceptable (Unsuccessful) Performance.
 - A small team of Rubrics experts develops Rubrics Version 1.
 - A National Content Validation project is conducted on Rubrics Version 1 with larger numbers of SMEs to ensure the Rubrics accurately and effectively describe the three levels of proficiency on the standards. This results in Rubrics Version 2.
- The Standards (Version 2) and Rubrics (Version 2) are field-tested at one location by a team of expert recreational boat instructors working with recreational boat operators out on the water. The focus is to gather feedback on how well the Standards and Rubrics will stand up to a national scale field test. Feedback is integrated to produce Standards and Rubrics Version 3. The process used to evaluate the Standards and Rubrics is also tested and made ready for national roll out.

Version 4: National Validation Program - Field Testing

- Before the Standards and Rubrics can be adopted for use on a national scale, they must first be tested in the field at a national level. Developing Version 4 involves taking the Standard and Rubrics out to five or six venues across the country, on different types of waterways, and using different types of recreational boats. The focus is to test their effectiveness at differentiating safe from unsafe recreational boat operation. The data collected is analyzed and the results used to update the Standards and Rubrics – resulting in Version 4.

The Standards now enter the final phase lead by ABYC's using its ANSI approved process to gain status as American National Standards.