

NEWS RELEASE (11/24/2015)
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Boating education standard earns distinction as American National Standard

LEXINGTON, Kentucky (Nov. 24, 2015) – The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators announces that its standard *ANSI/NASBLA 103-2016: Basic Boating Knowledge – Power* gained formal recognition on Nov. 18, 2015, as an American National Standard through the American National Standard Institute.

Formerly referenced as the National Boating Education Standard, this document prescribes the minimum body of knowledge to mitigate risk of boating in the U.S. states, territories, and District of Columbia. Under development for more than five years, [ANSI/NASBLA 103-2016 Basic Boating Education – Power](#), codifies [NASBLA](#)'s national education standards as the first basic boating education standard recognized both by [U.S. Coast Guard](#) and [ANSI](#).

"This Standard has served as the basis for boating education courses approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard since 1999," said NASBLA President Darren Rider. "Approval by ANSI provides third-party assurance that any person, organization, company, or government agency with a direct and material interest has a right to participate by expressing a position and its basis, having that position considered, and having the right to appeal. Due process allows for equity and fair play in establishing an American National Standard."

According to state program reports, nearly 500,000 students complete a course complying to the standard each year.

In 2011, the NASBLA placed the document under the guardianship of the [National Boating Education Standards Panel](#), whose primary function is to use an open, consensus-based process to assess the standards using risk-based analysis in order to "provide national agreement and consistency in boating education program content and course delivery for the nation's boaters."

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In September 2014, NASBLA earned the distinction as an ANSI Accredited Standards Developer based on adherence to a set of requirements set forth in a document known as the [ANSI Essential Requirements: Due process requirements for American National Standards](#). The process has been supported, in part, by funding from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund under several U.S. Coast Guard grants.

A copy of the approved standard, effective January 1, 2016, is posted at http://nasbla.membershipsoftware.org//Files/Education/ANSI_NASBLA-103-2016%20Basic%20Boating%20Knowledge%20?%20Power_Final_approved_2015_11_18.pdf.

The Education Standards Panel is authorized by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. NASBLA is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety. Representing the recreational boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories, NASBLA offers a variety of resources, including training, model acts, education standards and publications. Through a national network of thousands of professional educators, law enforcement officers and volunteers, NASBLA affects the lives of over 74 million American boaters. For more information, visit www.nasbla.org.

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