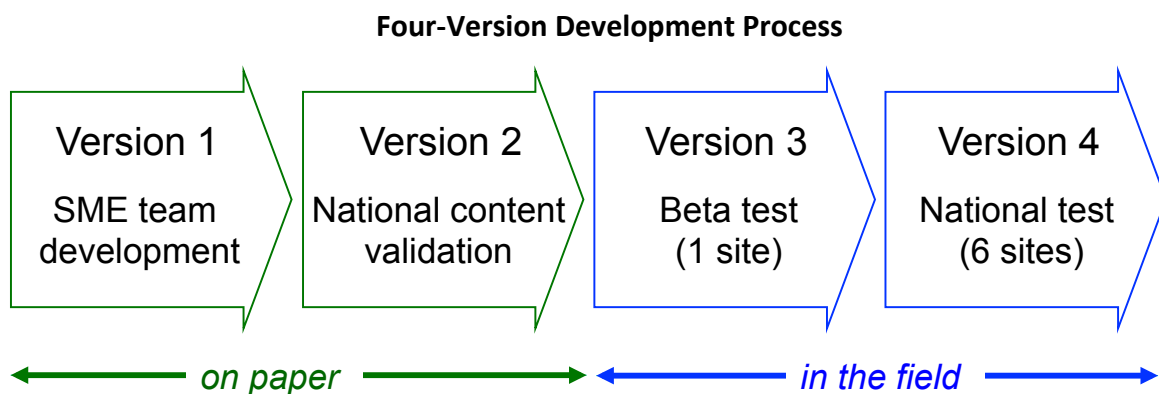


## Overview

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, as well as to apply the unique and deep knowledge, expertise and experience from SMEs within the domains of SAIL, POWER and HUMAN in formatting high quality and effective standards that fit within the National System of Standards for Recreational Boat Operation. Standards Versions 1 and 2 are standards identified on paper. Standards Versions 3 and 4, along with the Rubrics used to assess them are field-tested (On-Water) to ensure readiness 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 an American National Standard. 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 the high-quality drafts for entrance into ABYC's ANSI-approved process.



### Developing Versions 1 and 2: Establishing Broad Consensus

Standards Versions 1 and 2 are developed with input from Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) across SAIL, POWER and HUMAN because the focus is to help create broad agreement and consensus regarding the general content of the standards to include in a national system of standards.

#### *Standards Version 1: SME Team Development*

- A small team of Subject Matter Experts (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 (Version 1) 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 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 the standards are comprehensive and complete as well as do an effective job of identifying the skills associated with recreational boat operation for 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.

### **Developing Versions 3 and 4: Ensuring Accuracy and Effectiveness**

Developing Versions 3 and 4 requires a much deeper knowledge, understanding and experience in recreational boat operation from the specific 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. Therefore, SMEs of the highest credentials from around the country are involved in developing the Standards and the Rubrics used to assess performance on those Standards. The Standards and Rubrics also field-tested with recreational boat operators to ensure their effectiveness.

### *Standards Version 3: Rubrics Development and Beta Testing*

- Developing Standards Version 3 includes the identification of Rubrics that will be used to assess performance on the standards. Rubrics are descriptions associated with performance on the Standards at three levels of proficiency (Successful Performance; Needs Improvement; 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 test. Feedback gathered is integrated resulting in Standards and Rubrics Version 3. The process used to evaluate the Standards and Rubrics is also tested and made ready for national roll out.

### *Standards Version 4: National 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. Creating Version 4 involves taking the Standard and Rubrics out to six locations across the country, on different types of waterways, and in different types of recreational boats. The focus is to test their effectiveness for use as national standards. Feedback gathered is used to develop Version 4 of the Standards and Rubrics.

From here, the Standards enter the final phase of development, which uses ABYC's ANSI-approved process to gain status as American National Standards.