

# Safer Boating with an ABP ON BOARD



## BETTER BOATING SAFETY

Look out for the Australian Builders Plate (ABP), which is being introduced across the nation for most new Australian and imported recreational boats.

The plate provides information on a boat's capability and capacity when out on the water. It gives you details on boating operations, specifying the maximum number of people and load allowed, engine rating and weight.

And the ABP is set to become mandatory in 2006, as all states and the Northern Territory are moving to enact the plate in legislation.

## BOATS THAT NEED A PLATE

Most new recreational boats, from small row boats to power boats and large cruisers, will need to have an ABP visible from the helm.

Plates are not needed for: second hand boats; sailing vessels; amphibious vehicles; canoes, kayaks or surf skis; pedal powered boats; rowing shells used for racing; sailboards or sail kites; surf row boats; hydrofoils or hovercraft; aquatic toys; submersibles; inflatable boats and personal watercraft in certain conditions.

## Level or Basic Flotation Requirements



### Level Flotation

Means that the boat will continue to float in a level position if swamped and will be prevented from capsizing in calm water. This will allow you to remain in the boat and bail the vessel to remove the water.



## BUYING A BOAT

The ABP will make it easier for you to choose a new boat which best suits your needs. It helps take the guesswork out of whether a boat can safely carry the loads you want with the horsepower allowed.



## TYPES OF PLATES

Two types of ABP's have been developed according to the size of the boat:

- Plates for boats less than 6 metres in length do require a buoyancy statement
- Plates for boats 6 metres or more do not require a buoyancy statement

To make smaller boats safer, after 1 July 2006, new boats less than 6 metres must have either basic or level flotation, which means that they will float in some capacity if swamped (refer to illustrations).



## NEED TO KNOW MORE?

For further details, just go to the National Marine Safety Committee's web site, [www.nmsc.gov.au](http://www.nmsc.gov.au). To order plates, please go to the Australian Marine Industries Federation web site [www.amif.asn.au](http://www.amif.asn.au) and follow the links.

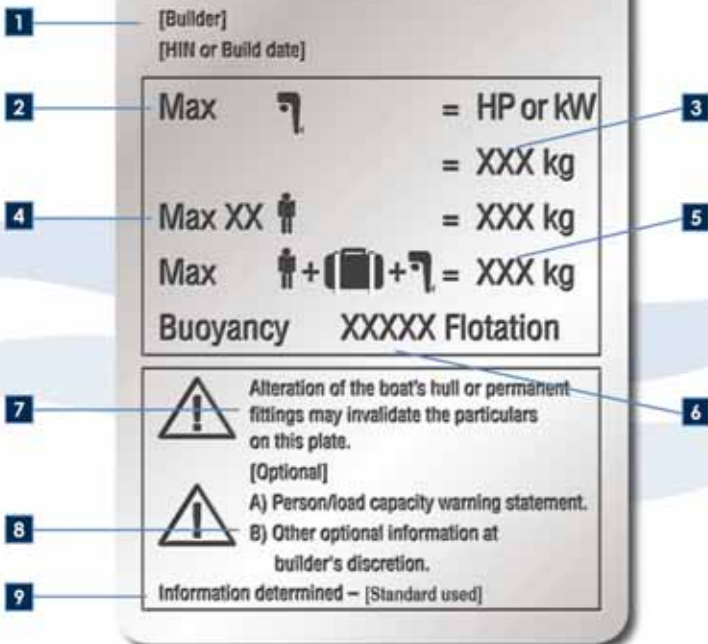


### Basic Flotation

Means that the boat will float in some form if swamped, if the boat has capsized, it will remain afloat for you to possibly cling on to the upturned hull.

*\*These diagrams are illustrative only and apply in calm water.*

## AUSTRALIAN BUILDERS PLATE



Sample ABP plate for a boat less than 6 metres, designed to be powered by an outboard engine.

- 1** Name of the person approving information on the plate, normally the builder or importer, and either the Hull Identification Number (HIN) or the year built.
- 2** Maximum outboard engine power rating for which the boat has been designed and tested, expressed in horsepower or kilowatts.
- 3** Maximum outboard engine weight for which the boat has been designed and tested, expressed in kilograms, including the weight of any auxiliary outboard that might be mounted on the transom.
- 4** Maximum number of persons on the boat expressed as a whole number and in kilograms.
- 5** The maximum load that a boat has been designed and tested to carry when underway. This includes persons, maximum outboard engine weight allowed including auxiliary engines, and carry-on equipment such as personal equipment, personal safety equipment, spare parts, tools, dry provisions, fishing tackle, portable tanks and their contents, etc. It does not include the mass of the contents of fixed fuel and water tanks.
- 6** For boats less than 6 metres in length there will be a buoyancy statement. For plates fitted up to 1 July 2006, the terms used may be either 'level flotation', 'basic flotation' or 'inadequate flotation'. The term 'inadequate flotation' will not be permitted for use on plates fitted after 1 July 2006.
- 7** A mandatory warning statement that alterations may invalidate the particulars on the Australian Builders Plate.
- 8** The person approving information on the plate may also add an optional person/load capacity warning statement or other safety information.  
Example: Warning – the recommended maximum persons on the flybridge should not exceed 2 persons or 150 kilograms
- 9** The standard used to determine the information provided on the plate.  
An example might be: Information determined – AS 1799

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