

Australian Transport Council

National Standard
for
The Australian Builders Plate
for Recreational Boats

EDITION 1

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Published by The National Marine Safety Committee, Level 11, 207 Kent St, Sydney NSW 2039. All inquiries to be addressed to the CEO, NMSC Inc.

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1 PREAMBLE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This Standard has been developed by the National Marine Safety Committee (NMSC) in response to public demand for recreational boat safety and with the support of Australian boat builders. It is a standard for an Australian Builders Plate (ABP) that is fixed to certain recreational boats used in Australia. An ABP is a plate that displays information, in accordance with the requirements of this Standard, about the recreational boat to which it is fixed.

This Standard specifies the boats to which the Standard applies. It also establishes requirements for the uniform display of information to be exhibited on the ABP, and the design and construction standards to be used in determining that information.

The boats to which an ABP must be affixed are determined by the relevant enabling Authority legislation. Where it is the legislative requirement of an Authority that a recreational boat has an ABP, the ABP is required to be fixed to the boat in addition to any other hull identification number, Builders plate or capacity plate that the boat may also have. An exception to this requirement is if a CE or NMMA (National Marine Manufacturers Association) plate is already affixed to the boat, and that plate displays the information required by this Standard, an ABP need not be affixed.

The ABP, or a CE or NMMA plate with the same information as the ABP, will consequently eventually become a universal plate on recreational boats in Australia that boat operators will expect to see.

1.2 PUBLICATION HISTORY AND AMMENDMENTS

This standard was approved by the ATC on 23 May 2003. Edition 1 of the standard was published on line in PDF format in March 2005.

Edition 2 was published on CD in April 2005. In Edition 2 Clauses 8.1c) and d) were amended to allow for a separate plate for boats less than 6 metres in length without an outboard. Two additional figures were added to illustrate this option.

This Edition (Edition 3) contains Amendment No. 1 which was endorsed by the ATC on 18 November 2005. Amendment No. 1 changes the definitions of maximum load and suitcase symbol at Clause 5, and makes changes to Clause 7.3, 7.3a), b), c), 8.1g), 8.1.j), 8.2g) 8.2.i), 9.4 and 9.6.

1.3 BACKGROUND

The Australian Transport Council (ATC) established the NMSC in 1997 under an Intergovernmental Agreement to promote a uniform national approach to marine safety in Australia.

The NMSC subsequently prepared a National Marine Safety Strategy, which was endorsed by ATC. The Strategy, as published in 1998, identified a number of actions necessary to achieve and sustain a uniform national approach to marine safety, including the following:

- a) Develop and encourage the adoption and use of a common framework of objectives and standards for recreational boats.
- b) Encourage competency and responsible use of recreational boats.

Since that date, the NMSC has progressively developed a comprehensive national safety system for recreational boats that incorporates compliance plates, on-board safety equipment and operator competencies. A National Marine Guidance Manual “Guidelines for Recreational Boat Operator Competencies” has been approved by the ATC and published. A national standard for the carriage of safety equipment on recreational boats has also been developed by the NMSC. This Standard addresses the compliance plate component of the recreational boat national safety system.

2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of the ABP is to enhance the safety of persons on a recreational boat. It does this by providing for—

- a) a declaration by the builder or importer that the boat meets, to the extent specified within this Standard, the requirements of relevant national or international standards applicable to recreational boats;
- b) ready access to essential safety information on the limitations applicable to the use of the boat to encourage appropriate and responsible use of the boat; and
- c) information on the buoyancy characteristics of the boat so that persons may make informed decisions regarding its purchase and use.

3 SCOPE

3.1 APPLICATION

This Standard shall apply to any recreational boat, other than the exceptions listed in Clause 3.2 below, that is required to have an ABP fixed.

Note: Refer to the relevant enabling Authority legislation for details of vessels required to be fitted with an ABP in accordance with this Standard.

It establishes requirements for—

- a) the location of the ABP on a recreational boat;
- b) the fixing of the ABP to a recreational boat;
- c) the markings, text and symbols displayed on the ABP;
- d) the design of the ABP;
- e) the information to be exhibited on the ABP; and
- f) the design and construction standards to be used in determining the information to be displayed on the ABP.

3.2 EXCEPTIONS

This Standard shall not apply to the following recreational boats:

- a) Aquatic toys.
- b) Amphibious vehicles.

- c) Canoes, kayaks and similar boats designed to be paddle-powered such as surf skis.
- d) Hydrofoils and hovercraft.
- e) Pedal powered boats.
- f) Personal watercraft carrying no more than two persons.
- g) Racing boats.
- h) Rowing shells used for racing or rowing training.
- i) Sailboards.
- j) Sailing boats.
- k) Submersibles.
- l) Surf row boats.

Note: This Standard applies to inflatable boats.

4 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

Any document referenced in this Standard should be considered as the latest revision of the document, including amendments.

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AMERICAN BOAT AND YACHT COUNCIL

ABYC Standards and Technical Information Reports for Small Craft

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

ISO 6185 *Small craft – Inflatable boats: Parts 1, 2 or 3*

ISO 8665 *Small craft – Marine propulsion engines and systems – Power measurement and declarations*

ISO 8666—*Small craft – Principal data*

ISO 10087—*Small craft – Hull identification – Coding system*

ISO 11192—*Small craft – Graphical symbols*

ISO 11592—*Small craft – Determination of maximum propulsion power*

ISO 12217—*Small craft – Stability and buoyancy assessment and categorisation: Parts 1, 2 or 3*

ISO 13590—*Small craft – Personal watercraft – Construction and system installation requirements*

ISO 14946—*Small craft – Maximum load capacity*

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

AS 1799—*Small Pleasure Boats Code*

5 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Standard, the following terms and definitions apply:

aquatic toy—

an object designed for play in or on the water. It includes, but is not limited to—

- a) an object designed solely to be towed behind a recreational boat; and
- b) an inflatable boat to which ISO 6185 does not apply.

Australian Builders Plate—

a plate that displays information, in accordance with the requirements of this Standard, about the boat to which it is fixed.

Authority—

the statutory marine authority of the Commonwealth of Australia or of a State or Territory within the Commonwealth.

basic flotation—

a flotation system that will keep a boat carrying its maximum load from sinking when swamped, assuming the occupants of the boat have left it and are in the water clinging to it. With basic flotation the swamped boat may float at any attitude.

NOTE: The definition of “basic flotation” that is used for the purpose of applying any relevant national or international standard is the definition of “basic flotation”, or its equivalent term, within the particular standard.

EXAMPLE – if ISO 12217-3 is used to determine a boat’s buoyancy performance, the performance requirement for basic flotation in that standard is to be used.

boat—

a recreational boat as defined below.

build date—

the year of production of a boat.

Hull Identification Number—

a number, in a form and of a size, specified in ISO 10087, permanently affixed to, and located in the positions on, the hull of a boat as specified by that Standard.

inadequate flotation —

a flotation system that does not meet the requirements of either level flotation or basic flotation.

length—

a term having the same meaning as “length of the hull” in ISO 8666.

Note: The length that is used for the purpose of applying any relevant national or international standard is the “length” as defined within the particular standard.

level flotation—

a flotation system that will keep a boat carrying its maximum load from sinking when swamped, assuming the occupants remain within the boat and supported by the flotation system. The flotation system must be such that it will keep the swamped boat floating level, and prevent it from capsizing in calm water. Level flotation does not provide a self-righting capacity.

Note: The definition of “level flotation” that is used for the purpose of applying any relevant national or international standard is the definition of “level flotation”, or its equivalent term, within the particular standard.

EXAMPLE – if ISO 12217-3 is used to determine a boat’s buoyancy performance, the performance requirement for level flotation in that standard is to be used.

maximum load—

the maximum load that a boat has been designed and tested to carry when underway. This includes persons, maximum outboard engine weight allowed (including the weight of the boat's primary engines and the weight of any reserve outboard engine mounted on the boat's transom), 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 when full.

The symbol for maximum load are the passenger symbol and suitcase symbol, and in the case of outboard boats, also the outboard boat symbol.

Notes:

1. This definition of maximum load relates to the maximum load required to be shown on the plate. It is provided on the plate to inform the operator of the carry-on load permitted. As such it may be different from the definition of "maximum load" found in a referenced standard, and is used for a different purpose.
2. The definition of "maximum load" or the equivalent term that is found in a referenced standard is used for the purpose of applying that relevant national or international standard. For the purposes of applying referenced standards, the definition of "maximum load" provided in the referenced standard should be used.

may—

indicates, in the context of its use, an option with or without conditions.

outboard engine symbol—

figure of an outboard engine representing the weight or power of the outboard engine that a boat may carry.

Personal Watercraft (PWC)—

a power driven vessel that has a fully enclosed hull, and does not take on water when capsized, and that is designed to be operated by a person or persons sitting astride, standing, or kneeling on, rather than within, the confines of the vessel.

person symbol—

figure of a person with a weight of 75 kg, representing one adult person.

racing boat—

a vessel that is built solely for racing and is not otherwise intended by the builder for use as a recreational boat.

recreational boat—

a vessel used solely for pleasure and recreation that is not used for a commercial purpose or in connection with a business.

relevant national or international standard—

a standard having similar objectives and safety outcomes to those of the specific standards specified within this standard. Such standards shall be either published by a national or international standard setting organisation or expressed within the legislation of a jurisdiction having similar notions as to the value of life as Australia.

EXAMPLES

Examples of national and international standard setting organisations:

- The American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC),
- the European Committee of Standardization (CEN),

- International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and
- Standards Australia.

Examples of relevant standards within legislation:

- The National Standard for Commercial Vessels; and
- US Federal Code of Regulations 33.

sailing boat—

a vessel that has sail as the primary means of propulsion, with or without an auxiliary means of mechanical propulsion.

shall—

indicates, in the context of its use, that a requirement expressed in a clause is mandatory for the purpose of complying with this Standard.

should—

indicates, in the context of its use, advice or information. The term is used, however, to highlight safety issues that should be considered and addressed.

suitcase symbol—

figure of a suitcase representing the carry-on equipment component of the maximum load such as personal equipment, personal safety equipment, spare parts, tools, dry provisions, fishing tackle, portable tanks and their contents etc.

NOTE:

1. See definition of maximum load
2. The suitcase symbol is illustrated in the sample plates in Annex A of this Standard.

warning symbol —

figure of an exclamation mark within a triangle representing warning information.

6 ABBREVIATIONS

ABP—

Australian Builders Plate

HIN—

Hull Identification Number

7 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

7.1 LOCATION

The ABP shall be readily visible to the operator of the boat when getting the boat underway, preferably in the cockpit or near the steering position.

7.2 FIXING AND MARKING

The ABP shall be permanently fixed in a way so that it shall be resistant to removal without leaving some obvious sign.

Text, symbols and other markings on the ABP shall be carved, stamped, burned, embossed, moulded, etched, printed, affixed by permanently setting adhesive, or be applied by such other suitable means so that they shall be—

- a) capable of withstanding the combined effects of water, oil, salt spray, direct sunlight, heat, cold and wear expected in the normal operation of the boat, without loss of legibility; and
- b) resistant to alteration of information without leaving some obvious sign.

Text, symbols and other markings on the ABP shall be of a colour that contrasts to the background.

The colours applied to the ABP shall be resistant to fading.

7.3 SYMBOLS

Information on the ABP may be displayed using symbols in conjunction with text.

Any symbol used shall be as specified in ISO 11192, or as illustrated in this standard. Symbols that may be used include an outboard engine symbol, a person symbol, a suitcase symbol, and a warning symbol.

If symbols are used—

- a) the outboard engine symbol shall be used to display information about a boat's maximum outboard engine power and weight (including the weight of the boat's primary engines and the weight of any reserve outboard engine/s mounted on the boat's transom).
- b) the person symbol shall be used to display information about a boat's maximum person capacity as a number and total weight;
- c) the person symbol and the suitcase symbol, and in the case of outboard boats the outboard engine symbol, shall be used to display information about a boat's maximum load capacity; and
- d) the warning symbol shall be used to display warning information.

7.4 SIZE OF TEXT AND SYMBOLS

The text that is used to display the information that is required by this Standard to be provided on the ABP in relation to—

- a) outboard engine power and weight;
- b) person and load capacity; and
- c) buoyancy performance,

shall be at least 5 mm in height.

Any symbols that are used to display information shall be at least 8 mm in height.

Other information on the ABP shall be displayed using text that shall be at least 3 mm in height.

7.5 DESIGN OF ABP

Illustrations of sample plates are provided in Annex A as guidance to assist in plate design.

NOTE: This standard does not specifically mandate the shape, size or layout of the plate itself. This aspect of the design is at the discretion of the builder, provided the plate complies with all requirements of the standard, including those relating to size and legibility of the text and symbols on the plates.

The builder of a boat may also provide additional information on the ABP. This shall be displayed in the space provided on the ABP for such a purpose. The inclusion of this information shall not impair the legibility of the information that is required by this Standard to be displayed.

8 DISPLAYED INFORMATION

8.1 BOATS LESS THAN 6 METRES IN LENGTH

The following information shall be displayed on the ABP for a boat less than 6 m in length:

- a) The title "Australian Builders Plate"
- b) The name of the boat's builder.
- c) The maximum outboard engine power rating for which the boat has been designed and tested, expressed in kilowatts or horsepower.
 - i) If the boat is designed to be powered by an outboard engine, this information shall be displayed and shall apply only to the boat's primary engines.

Note: This means that the maximum outboard engine power rating displayed on the ABP excludes the power of any reserve outboard engine mounted on the boat or carried in the boat.
 - ii) If the boat is not designed to be powered by an outboard engine, this information may be omitted. Alternatively the words "not applicable" may be displayed.
- d) The maximum outboard engine weight for which the boat has been designed and tested, expressed in kilograms. This information shall include the weight of the boat's primary engines and the weight of any reserve outboard engine mounted on the boat's transom.
 - i) If the boat is designed to be powered by an outboard engine, this information shall be displayed.
 - ii) If the boat is not designed to be powered by an outboard engine, this information may be omitted. Alternatively the words "not applicable" may be displayed.
- e) The maximum number of persons for the boat, as recommended by the boat's builder, expressed in a whole number and in kilograms.
- f) The maximum load for the boat, as recommended by the boat's builder, expressed in kilograms.
- g) A warning statement, as determined by the boat's builder, in relation to the recommended maximum number of persons and maximum load for the boat. The builder may determine that a warning statement is not required.

Note: Typically a warning statement would caution the user that the recommended maximum number of persons and the recommended maximum load should be reduced in conditions of increased risk, e.g. bad weather or when going offshore. Additionally, a warning statement may refer the user to the owner's manual before

operating the boat. For boats with a flybridge, the warning statement may provide maximum passenger numbers to be carried on the flybridge.

- h) A statement by the boat's builder as to the boat's buoyancy performance using either the term "basic flotation" or the term "level flotation". In addition, if the boat has a build date prior to 1 July 2006, the term "inadequate flotation" may be used.
- i) The build date of the boat, or the boat's HIN.
- j) A warning statement that if the boat is altered so that it is different to the Builders specifications, then the particulars specified on the ABP may be invalidated.
- k) The name of the standard used to determine the information on the plate using the words "Information determined (insert name of appropriate standard)". The name of the standard may be expressed as the code number by which the standard is known, rather than its title (i.e.: AS 1799, ISO 12217).

EXAMPLE

Information determined – AS 1799

8.2 BOATS 6 METRES OR MORE IN LENGTH

The following information shall be displayed on the ABP for a boat that is 6 m or more in length:

- a) The title "Australian Builders Plate"
- b) The name of the boat's builder.
- c) The maximum outboard engine power rating for which the boat has been designed and tested, expressed in kilowatts or horsepower.
 - i) If the boat is designed to be powered by an outboard engine, this information shall be displayed and shall apply only to the boat's primary engines.

Note: This means that the maximum outboard engine power rating displayed on the ABP excludes the power of any reserve outboard engine mounted on the boat or carried in the boat.
 - ii) If the boat is not designed to be powered by an outboard engine, this information may be omitted. Alternatively the words "not applicable" may be displayed.
- d) The maximum outboard engine weight for which the boat has been designed and tested, expressed in kilograms. This information shall include the weight of the boat's primary engines and the weight of any reserve outboard engine mounted on the boat's transom.
 - i) If the boat is designed to be powered by an outboard engine, this information shall be displayed.
 - ii) If the boat is not designed to be powered by an outboard engine, this information may be omitted. Alternatively the words "not applicable" may be displayed.
- e) The maximum number of persons for the boat, as recommended by the boat's builder, expressed in a whole number and in kilograms.
- f) The maximum load for the boat, as recommended by the boat's builder, expressed in kilograms.

- g) A warning statement, as determined by the boat's builder, in relation to the recommended maximum number of persons and maximum load for the boat. The builder may determine that a warning statement is not required.

Note: Typically a warning statement would caution the user that the recommended maximum number of persons and the recommended maximum load should be reduced in conditions of increased risk, e.g. bad weather or when going offshore. Additionally, a warning statement may refer the user to the owner's manual before operating the boat. For boats with a flybridge, the warning statement may provide maximum passenger numbers to be carried on the flybridge.

- h) The build date of the boat or the boat's HIN.
- i) A warning statement that if the boat is altered so that it is different to the Builders specifications, then the particulars specified on the ABP may be invalidated.
- j) The name of the standard used to determine the information on the plate using the words "Information determined (insert name of appropriate standard)". The name of the standard may be expressed as the code number by which the standard is known, rather than its title (i.e.: AS 1799, ISO 12217).

EXAMPLE

Information determined – AS 1799

9 STANDARDS FOR DETERMINING INFORMATION

9.1 USE OF STANDARDS

When determining the information to be displayed on a boat's ABP, the boat's builder shall be consistent in the type of standard used. The builder shall not use a standard from one standard setting organisation for determining one piece of information, and a standard from another standard setting organisation for determining another piece of information.

EXAMPLE:

If a builder uses an ABYC standard to determine the person capacity and maximum load information of a boat, the builder shall also use ABYC standards to determine the other information to go on the ABP.

9.2 ENGINE POWER RATING AND WEIGHT INFORMATION

The outboard engine power rating information and weight information specified in Clauses 8.1 c), 8.1 d), 8.2 c), and 8.2 d), shall be determined in accordance with one of the following:

- a) ABYC Standards and Technical Information Reports for Small Craft
- b) AS 1799
- c) ISO 6185
- d) ISO 8665 and ISO 11592
- e) ISO 13590
- f) A relevant national or international standard that is not one of those listed above

9.3 PERSON CAPACITY AND MAXIMUM LOAD INFORMATION

The person capacity and maximum load information specified in Clauses 8.1 e), 8.1 f), 8.2 e), and 8.2 f) shall be determined in accordance with one of the following:

- a) ABYC Standards and Technical Information Reports for Small Craft.
- b) AS 1799.
- c) ISO 6185.
- d) ISO 13590.
- e) ISO 14946.
- f) A standard specified in the legislation of an Authority for the purpose of determining the maximum person capacity and maximum load of a boat.
- g) A relevant national or international standard that is not one of those listed above.

9.4 OPTIONAL WARNING STATEMENT – PERSON AND LOAD CAPACITY

The decision to display the warning statement specified in Clauses 8.1 g) and 8.2 g), and the wording of the warning statement specified in Clauses 8.1 g) and 8.2 g), shall be consistent with any limitations expressed or implied within the standards adopted under Clauses 9.2 and 9.3 above, and 9.5 below.

Where the boat has an owner's operating manual, written by the builder of the boat, and that manual provides guidance on the conditions and the environment for which the boat has been designed, the warning statement may recommend reference to the manual.

EXAMPLE 1

Example of warning statement that refers to the operating manual:

WARNING - THE RECOMMENDED MAXIMUM PERSONS AND MAXIMUM LOAD SHOULD BE REDUCED IN BAD WEATHER OR WHEN THE BOAT IS OPERATED OFFSHORE. REFER TO THE OWNER'S OPERATING MANUAL BEFORE OPERATION.

EXAMPLE 2

Example of warning statement for a boat with a flybridge:

WARNING – THE RECOMMENDED MAXIMUM PERSONS TO BE CARRIED ON THE FLYBRIDGE AT ANYTIME SHOULD NOT EXCEED 2 PERSONS OR 150 KILOGRAMS.

NOTE: The words in these examples should not be used verbatim. They are provided as guidance only on the type of matters that may be covered by the optional warning statement.

9.5 BUOYANCY INFORMATION

Where the buoyancy information specified in Clause 8.1 h) is the term "basic flotation" or the term "level flotation", the buoyancy performance shall be determined in accordance with one of the following:

- a) ABYC Standards and Technical Information Reports for Small Craft

- b) AS 1799
- c) ISO 6185
- d) ISO 12217
- e) ISO 13590
- f) A relevant national or international standard that is not one of those listed above

9.6 BUILD DATE INFORMATION

If displayed, the build date specified in Clauses 8.1 i) and 8.2 h) shall consist of the year of production.

9.7 HIN INFORMATION

If displayed, the HIN specified in Clauses 8.1 i) and 8.2 h) shall be determined in accordance with ISO 10087.

Display of the HIN on the ABP shall not replace any of the requirements for the display of the HIN as specified in ISO 10087.

9.8 MANDATORY WARNING STATEMENT – ALTERATION OF THE BOAT

The warning statement specified in Clauses 8.1 j) and 8.2 i) shall be:

**WARNING – ALTERATION OF THE BOAT’S HULL OR
PERMANENT FITTINGS MAY INVALIDATE THE
PARTICULARS ON THIS PLATE.**

or if symbols are used:

“  Alteration of the boat’s hull or permanent fittings may invalidate the particulars on this plate”.

ANNEX A TEMPLATES FOR AUSTRALIAN BUILDERS PLATES

A1 SCOPE

Annex A provides sample plate designs for the Australian Builders Plate that meet the requirements of the standard.

This Annex is provided as guidance only.

A2 ABP TEMPLATES FOR VESSELS UNDER 6 METRES IN LENGTH

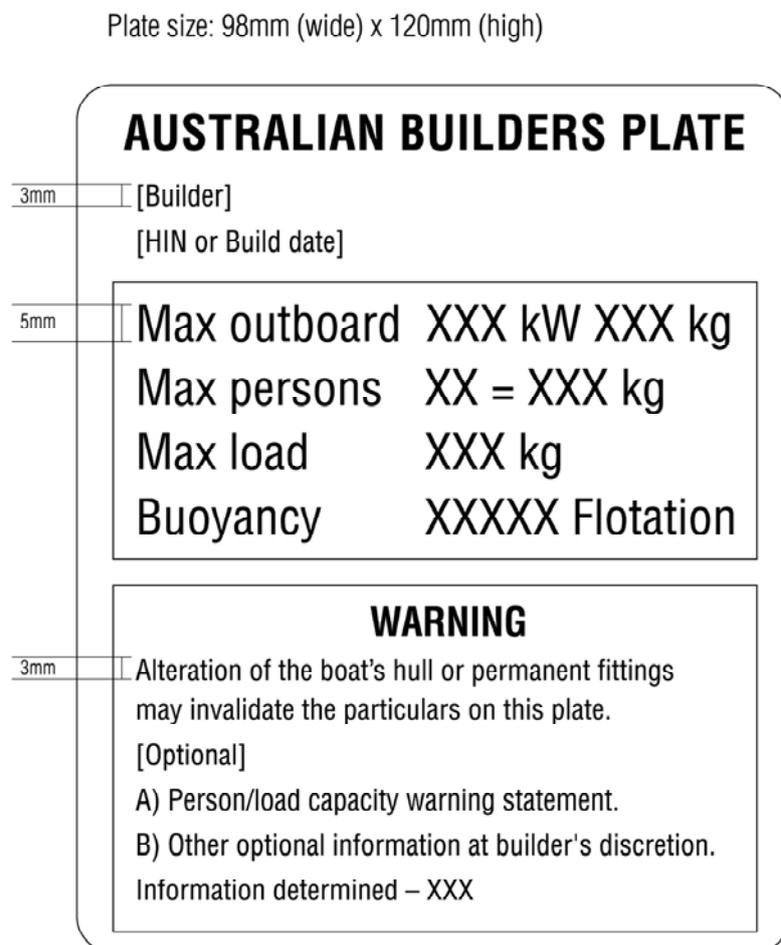


Figure 1 — Sample ABP template for boats less than 6 metres in length designed to be powered by an outboard engine

Plate size: 98mm (wide) x 110mm (high)

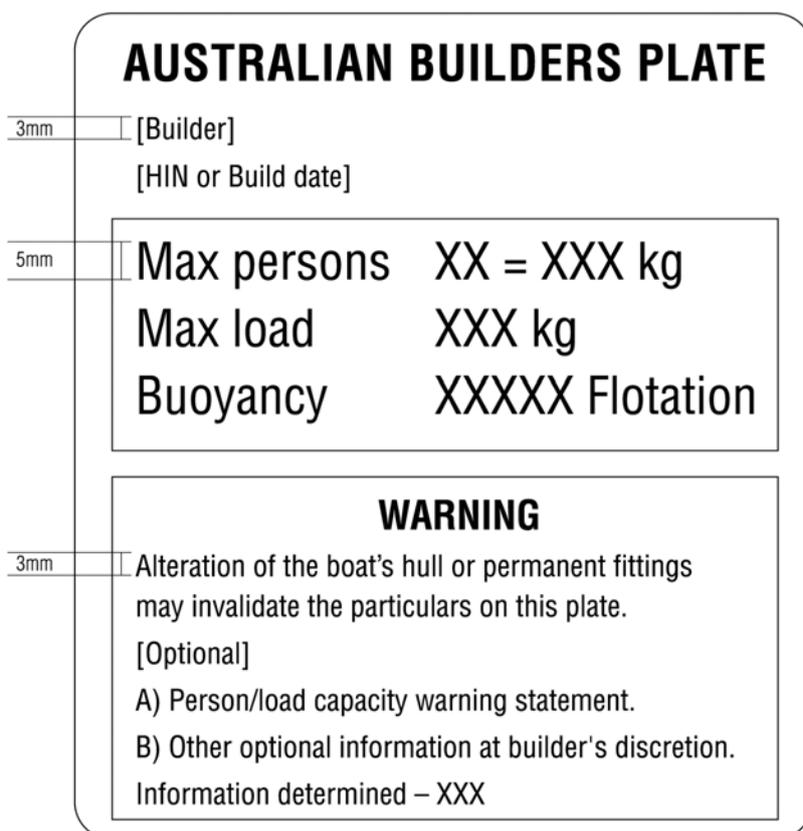


Figure 2 — Sample ABP template for boats less than 6 metres in length, not designed to be powered by an outboard engine

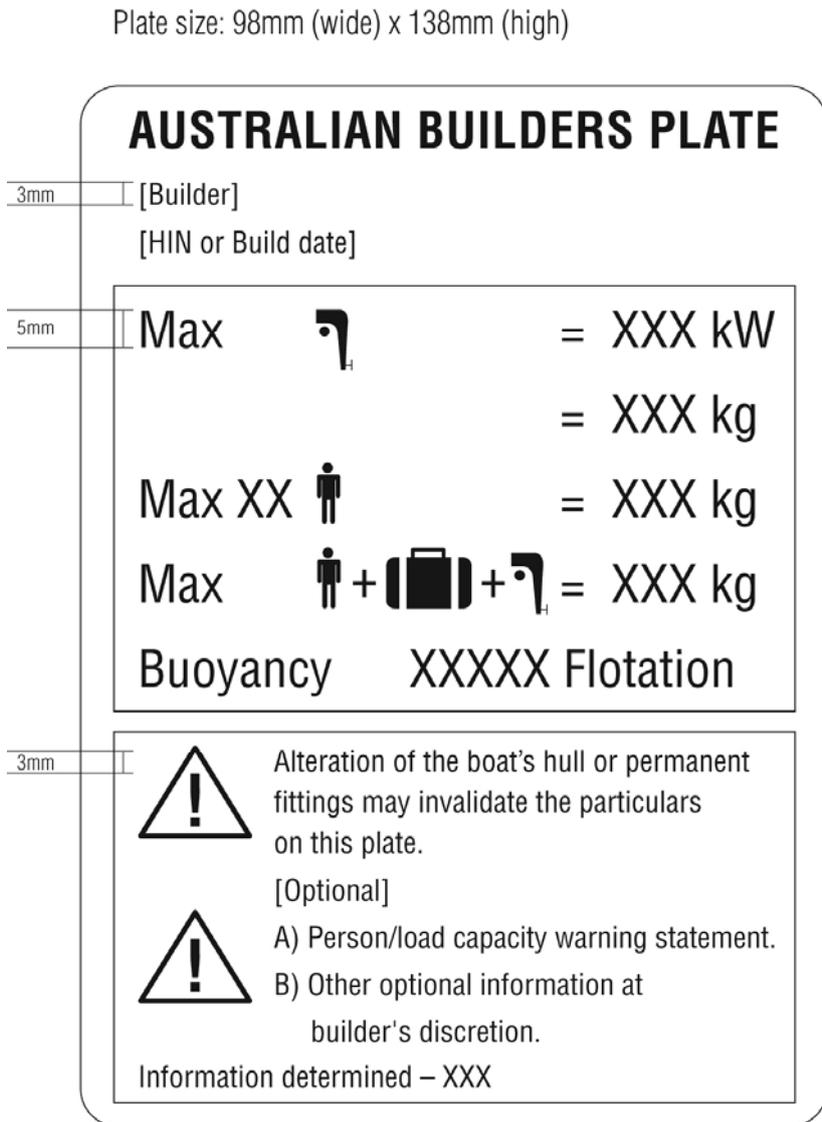


Figure 3 — Sample ABP template for boats less than 6 metres in length, designed to be powered by an outboard engine, using text and symbols

Plate size: 98mm (wide) x 115mm (high).

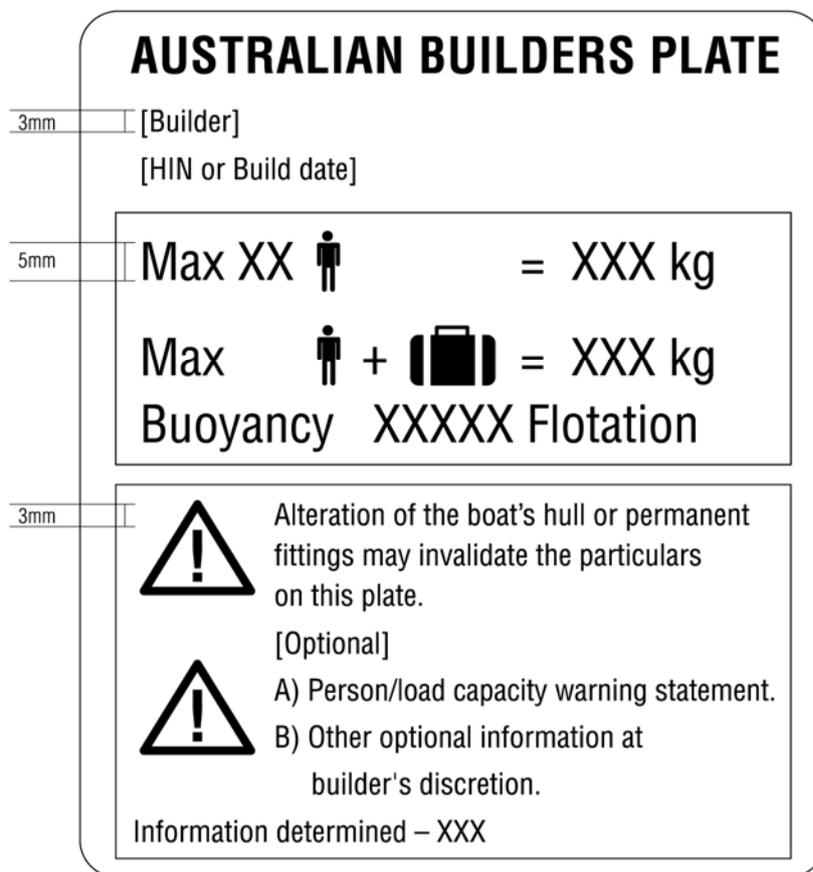


Figure 4 — Sample ABP template for boats less than 6 metres in length, not designed to be powered by an outboard engine, using text and symbols

A3 ABP TEMPLATES FOR VESSELS 6 METRES AND OVER IN LENGTH

Plate size: 98mm (wide) x 108mm (high)

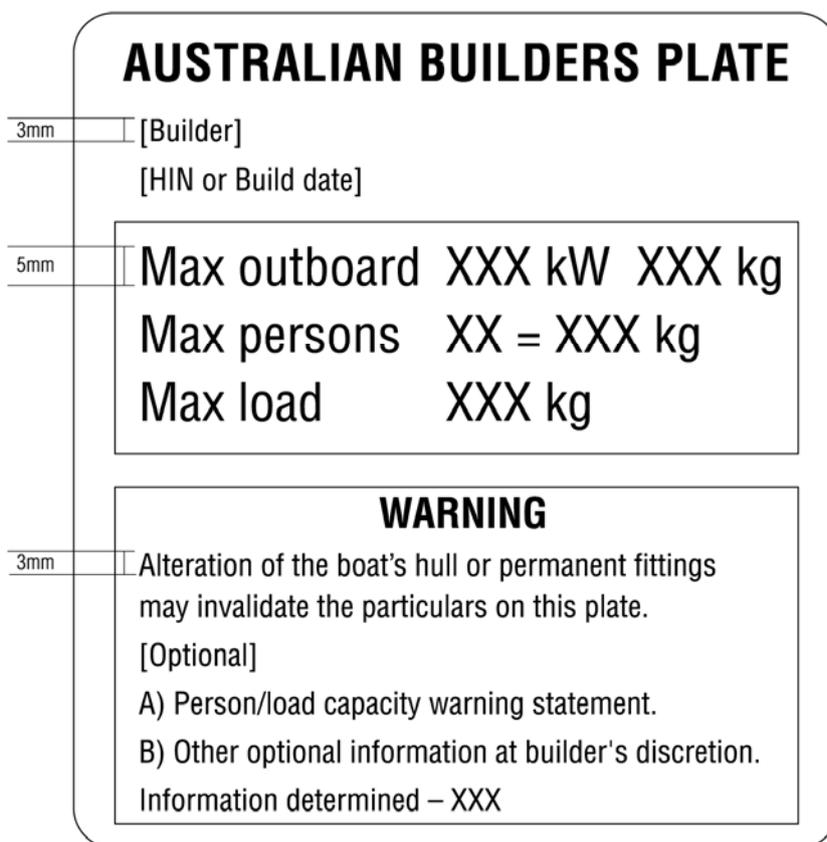


Figure 5 — Sample ABP template for boats 6 metres or more in length, designed to be powered by an outboard engine

Plate size: 98mm (wide) x 100mm (high)

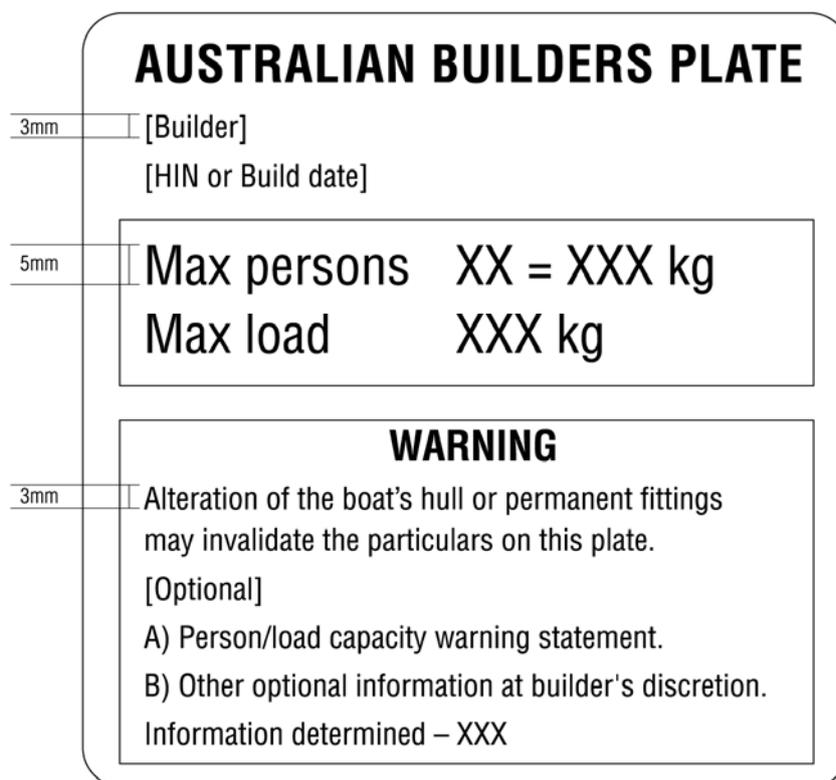


Figure 6 — Sample ABP template for boats 6 metres or more in length, not designed to be powered by an outboard engine

Plate size: 98mm (wide) x 130mm (high)

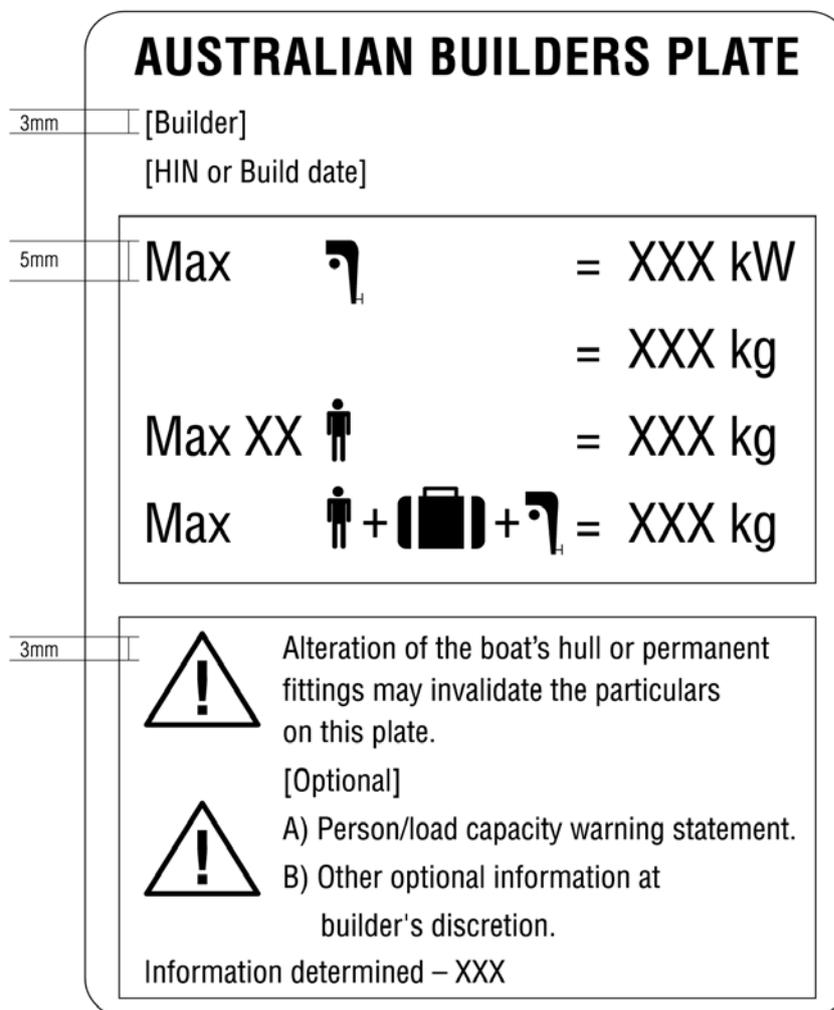


Figure 7 — Sample ABP template for boats 6 m or more in length, designed to be powered by an outboard engine, using text and symbols

Plate size: 98mm (wide) x 110mm (high)

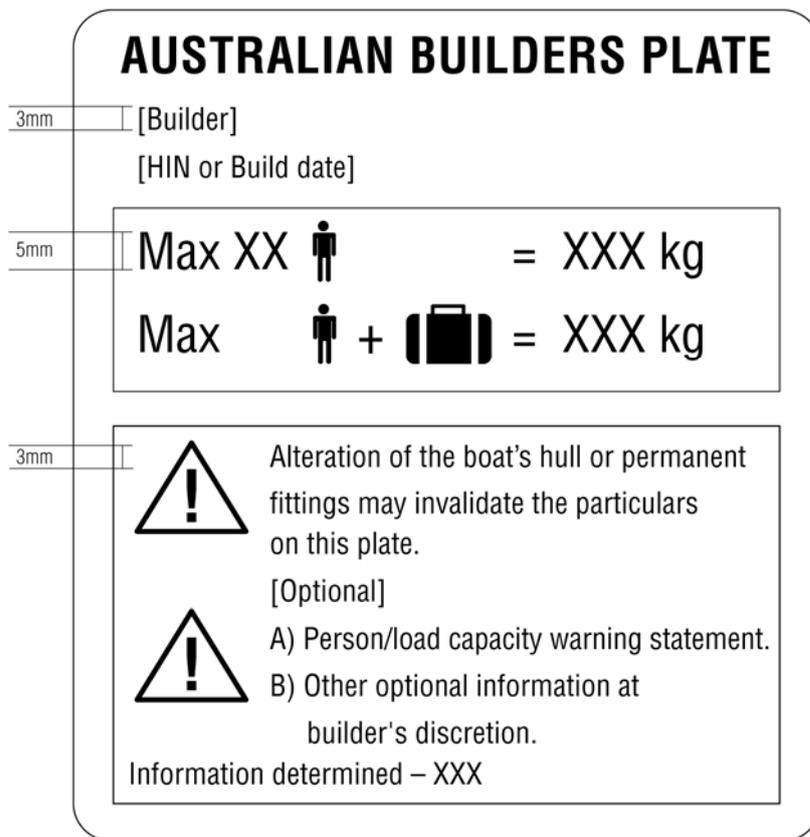


Figure 8 — Sample ABP template for boats 6 metres or more in length, not designed to be powered by an outboard engine using text and symbols