Modernizing the Knowledge Standards: Transitioning American National Standards for Basic Boating Knowledge to a Core/ Plus Approach

This White Paper was developed to share the rationale behind transitioning the current American National Standards for Basic Boating Knowledge to a new format for future use and application. This document is developed in response to questions from public commenters, stakeholders, and others within the boating community and will be updated to cover additional information as needed.

Overview of the 'Core' and 'Plus' Formats:

> *CORE = Information applicable to operation of all recreational boats*
> *PLUS = Additional information for boat operators for the type craft they intend to operate*

The proposed draft knowledge standards are presented in a 'Core' and 'Plus' format. This model, based on the U.S. Coast Guard's training model implemented through the Office of Boat Forces, improves efficiency by providing an efficient process to update 'core' information applicable to all modes of recreational boating (human-propelled, sailing, powerboating, water-jet propelled). With adoption of this 'core' approach, common elements for each discipline-specific knowledge standard remain consistent. This 'Core' approach expedites timing of vital updates and ensures uniformity of information not possible under the current system of independent, stand-alone standards requiring separate public review processes. Under the current system of independent, stand-alone standards, a change in life jacket labeling (for example) requires separate processes to update each knowledge standard. As a result, over time the content may vary slightly from one standard to the next as new insight, data, and information become available. With adoption of the proposed 'Core' and 'Plus' approach, an update to the 'Core' standard will result in immediate update to all 'Plus' standards.

Student Outcome Language

Each draft knowledge standard is written in 'student outcome' language *(i.e. The student will be able to…).* This approach specifies the outcome of the education rather than the manner the information is to be presented. This is a change from the previous approach of 'prescribing' what is to be included in a basic boating course. Student outcome language allows a course provider to use a variety of instructional designs to develop a student for final assessment or testing to the knowledge standard. The proposed student outcome language aligns each

standard to adult learning principles providing for student-focused approaches to enhance student evaluation.

Additional Benefits to Implementation of the Core-Plus Model

- Content is stream-lined between disciplines.
- Provides efficiency to address discipline-specific topics.
- Consistent and comprehensive method to update boater knowledge topics across all disciplines.
- Opportunity for instructional designers to address additional specialized information for the boating public without repeating or redesigning common content.
- Builds on groundwork laid through the NASBLA (optional) interactivity requirement review process and third-party skill course verification process which are both outcome-based.
- Outcome-based standards make it easier for instructors to evaluate their own training.
- Outcome-based standards help students' completion of self-assessment.
- Outcome language also provides a clearer transition to on-water skill-training which meet American National Standards for On-Water Skills (www.usnows.org).

Other Formatting Updates

'Core' and 'Plus' standards are presented in a consistent order:
- 1.0 Terminology
- 2.0 Boating Types and Characteristics
- 3.0 Required Equipment
- 4.0 Trip Planning and Preparation
- 5.0 Safe Boat Operation
- 6.0 Navigation
- 7.0 Emergency Preparedness and Response
- 8.0 Other Water Activities
- 9.0 Environmental Concerns

Each 'Plus' standard specifically references and incorporates the latest version of the 'Core' document. Therefore, to develop a course for a specific discipline such as Powerboating, an instructional designer would use BOTH the 'Core' and 'Plus Power' standards as noted.

August 5, 2020 Update: **What are Technical Reports? How are They Used?**

Technical Reports are documents published to support a specific American National Standard (ANS) which was formulated through voluntary consensus of representatives of federal and state government, industry, non-profit organizations, and public sectors. The purpose of the Technical Report is to provide information that helps design and implement successful recreational education programs in the indicated discipline: Human-Propelled, Sail, or Power.

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) -registered Technical Reports will be produced to cover each of the proposed draft standards. Technical Reports are registered according to the Procedures for the Registration of Technical Reports with ANSI. Technical Reports are not considered as American National Standards and the material contained herein is not normative in nature. Rather, they are meant to provide additional detail and insight useful to implementation and consistent interpretation of the content of the standard.

Provided here are links to two examples currently available:

- **SP TR 101-2018: Technical Report – Basic Boating Knowledge – Human Propelled** - This Technical Report provides information to help design and implement successful recreational power boating education and training programs based on ANSI/NASBLA 101-2017: Basic Boating Knowledge – Human Propelled (ANS). Produced by the National Education Standards Panel, August 16, 2018.

- **ESP TR 103-2018: Technical Report – Basic Boating Knowledge - Power** - This Technical Report provides information to help design and implement successful recreational power boating education and training programs based on ANSI/NASBLA 103-2016: Basic Boating Knowledge - Power (ANS). Produced by the National Education Standards Panel, June 26, 2018.

Do you have questions you would like to see addressed in future updates on this topic? Send questions to esp@nasbla.org.