

Meeting Report
ABYC Electrical Components Project Technical Committee
Nashville, Tennessee
March 18-19, 2008

This is the first meeting of this newly created committee.

1. Committee responsibility
 - UL 1107 Battery Switches
 - A-32, Power Conversion
 - A-31, Battery Chargers & Inverters
 - UL 1500 Ignition Protection
 - UL 1128 Bilge blowers
 - UL 1113 Pumps for Non flammable Liquids
2. UL Standards disposition
 - Hope to complete UL 1107 before ABYC tackles other UL standards
 - UL has been invited to participate on the PTC, but has not yet attended any meetings.
 - The test standards and/or components standards may not be included in the ABYC handbook, but that will be decided by the Tech Board.
3. UL 1107, Battery Switches for Use on Boats, standard review
 - Over 115 comments received.
 - Removed all the requirements for installation of battery switches since this is a test standard, and installation requirements are contained in E-11.
 - Added SAE J1171, External Ignition Protection Test of Marine Electrical Devices, as a referenced standard. This may present a conflict in the future as the test temperature is different than the UL 1500 Ignition Protection test standard. Both are currently accepted as a reference test standard. Will add the E-11 wording.
 - Aluminum and aluminum alloys shall not be used as a current carrying part of these switches. All fasteners shall be made of corrosion resistant materials.
 - A subcommittee was created to determine environmental tests for these switches. Action: NMMA is S/C chair and will handle via email and conference calls.
 - Battery switches shall be ignition protected if used in spaces requiring ignition protection.
 - Revised the temperature test for the mounted switch.
 - The manufacturer must specify the torque value for connection of conductors.
 - Added definitions for a marine battery isolation switch, a marine battery selector switch and a remotely operated marine battery switch.
 - Battery switches shall have continuous, intermittent and starting ratings.
 - All temperatures were given a tolerance of +/- 5C.
 - Added the requirement for 5 cycles to all current tests.
 - A subcommittee was created to review the cycle test under load requirements, section 13.
 - The required markings on the switch were revised to closely reflect E-11.
 - Specified the information that a manufacturer must include in their installation instructions.
 - All test currents were set at 110% of continuous rating.
 - Listed requirements for weathertight and watertight switches.
 - Numerous editorial changes.
 - The PTC discussed the potential that UL will be testing to both the old UL standard and the new ABYC standard. This will require clarification from UL.
 - NMMA introduced the new NMMA listed components program.
 - Next action: Work from the two subcommittees to be completed and the standard will be distributed to the PTC for a quick review before distribution for consensus ballot and comment.
4. A-32, AC Power Conversion, standard review

- The PTC received a report of the status of this new standard from Ward Eshleman.
- The Scope of this standard applies to shore power supplies operating at 660 volts and on board systems operating at 300 volts or less; single and 3 phase systems.
- The S/C met 4 times already and the standard has been reviewed. NMMA has already submitted comments.
- Next action: The draft standard will be amended with comments already received and updated drawings and then distributed for consensus ballot and comment.

5. A-31, Battery Chargers and Inverters

- David Rifkin, ABYC and CG consultant, gave a presentation on problems with the battery chargers standard. He has observed many standard and code discrepancies on boats with prewired battery chargers. He presented 5 accidents that resulted in accidents but none were prewired. He recommended that all prewired battery chargers be grounded (currently they are exempt). He also recommended that this standard be opened early for review. The PTC voted to open the standard for early review. Although no accidents have been attributed to prewired battery chargers or omissions in the standard, NMMA voted for the early opening.

6. The next meeting of the ABYC Electrical Component PTC was tentatively set for September 16-17, 2008 in Chicago or Baltimore. The agenda will include review of standards E-1107, A-32 and A-31.

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