

Meeting Highlights
SAE PWC Subcommittee
Irvine, CA
August 21, 2003

These are the highlights of the recent SAE PWC subcommittee meeting. Most of the subcommittee work was spent on addressing the comments submitted for the off-throttle steering standard and the Persons Capacity Label standard.

1. Draft RP J2566 - Display of Capacity Information
 - Numerous editorial revisions.
 - Changed the label from "Person Capacity" to "Persons Capacity" to make it consistent with boat capacity labels.
 - The Rated Persons Capacity must be black print and be at least ¼ inch in height but not larger than ½ the height of the persons capacity numeral.
 - The subcommittee debated whether "SAE J2566" should be put on the label. For now, it will not be on the label but I suspect this topic will be discussed again in the future.
 - Next action: Draft standard with the changes made will be reballoted.
2. Draft J2608 – Off-throttle Steering Capabilities of Personal Watercraft
 - The standard was sent to the SAE Council for ballot and the ballot was approved by 6 of 10 council members. Therefore, the standard was approved, pending resolution of council comments.
 - Comment: Include metric equivalents. The subcommittee did not include metric equivalents since PWC speedometers are only in mph. The subcommittee vice-chairman will resolve this comment and will recommend to the council that the standard remains as is.
 - Comment: Clarify/resolve the requirement of the position measuring equipment (clause 4.1.3.).The requirement was clarified to read: Position measuring equipment measuring equipment capable of...
 - This standard has taken 3 years from its first writing to approval.
 - Next action: After acceptance of the resolved comments, SAE will publish the document as a Recommended Practice. This could be as early as September 2003.
3. The subcommittee discussed a NASBLA article written by Capt. Evans of the CG Office of Boating Safety. The article was written some time ago, and the approval of the Off-throttle Steering standard has overtaken his concerns about a lack of progress in the standard.
4. The subcommittee discussed use of non-CG-approved A-1 fuel hose. One manufacturer conducted a fire test with A-1 hose and found that the hose failed the test. A potential reason could have been an incorrect test protocol.
5. Activity in current standards
 - J2034, Ventilation system, and J1973, Flotation – Comments have been received from the SAE Council and subcommittee chair will respond.
 - J2120, Electrical system and J2046, Fuel system – These standards will be reformatted and sent to the Council for approval.
6. The subcommittee discussed an ABYC letter that recommended SAE PWC standards reference ABYC standards where applicable. The subcommittee will invite John Adey, ABYC Technical Director, to become a member of the subcommittee and to recommend to the subcommittee those ABYC deemed applicable.

7. The subcommittee discussed the need for a standard to cover PWC handholds. The subcommittee will wait for the results of a study from the Emergency Room Nurses Association before any further action on this subject.
8. The Bombardier Government Relations office has moved from Florida to Washington DC. The subcommittee chairman, Fernando Garcia will now be based in Washington, DC.
9. General Observation: The subcommittee finally got a big win, the approval of the off-throttle steering standard, after three years of work and industry cooperation. Now it is bogged down on what should be a very easy to write label standard. Yet it is still in revision due to the SAE consensus requirement that allows one or two dissidents to tie up progress. I'm afraid this standard will forever be in revision.
10. The next meeting of this subcommittee will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2004 at the Miami International Boat Show, with the NMMA PWC certification committee scheduled to meeting on Friday the 13th.