

# The Boat Builders Guide to NMMA Certification



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## **I. Introduction**

NMMA Certified boats and yachts are known throughout the world as the benchmark for product quality. That's why more than 90% of boats sold in the United States each year are NMMA Certified, and a recent study showed that NMMA Certified boats are 7 times less likely to be recalled by the US Coast Guard for a safety issue.

NMMA Certification is a service of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), a trade association representing the recreational marine industry. NMMA member boat builders are required to be NMMA Certified as a condition of NMMA membership, but membership in NMMA is not required to become NMMA Certified. There are significant cost savings for NMMA members that more than justify the annual membership costs, in addition to the many benefits of NMMA membership. To learn more about NMMA membership and how NMMA works to help you succeed, visit <http://www.nmma.org/members/>.

NMMA Certified manufacturers are among the most recognizable names in boating. To see the list of who is currently NMMA Certified, visit <http://www.nmma.org/certification/programs/boats/boatlinks.asp>.

## **II. Annual Requirements Summary**

In order to become or stay NMMA Certified, there are several items that must be completed each model year, including:

1. Signing the annual agreement and submitting the accompanying fee
2. Submitting completed and accurate model applications and signing the master model list
3. Undergoing an inspection of all models
4. Submitting the Variance Response of corrective actions

These items are discussed in more depth throughout this document.

## **III. Standards Basis**

NMMA applies American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) Standards to the NMMA Certification program. As this is an annual program, the standards applied each model year may be updated, or additional standards be added. The current and upcoming model year's standards can always be found online at <http://www.nmma.org/certification/standards/>. ABYC Standards can be obtained directly from ABYC at [www.abycinc.org](http://www.abycinc.org). ABYC standards are provided at no additional cost to individuals attending the annual Compliance Seminar. Several ABYC Standards include and expand upon the Regulations of the United States Coast Guard. NMMA also incorporates additional items from the Code of



Federal Regulations, including Inboard Engines and Marine Sanitation Devices to the certification basis.

#### **IV. CSI – Consumer Satisfaction Index**

The NMMA Certification program requires that manufacturers have a Consumer Satisfaction Index (CSI) program in place to assist the manufacturer in receiving product and experience feedback from their customers. The minimum requirement for compliance is that a single census type survey be conducted by the manufacturer with all known retail consumers within the first 12 months of retail ownership. Survey results must be tabulated and reports provided to your internal company management on a regular and ongoing basis.

NMMA offers a CSI program that manufacturers can participate in that exceeds these minimum requirements and is recognized by both consumers and the marine industry. Participation in the NMMA operated program is not mandatory for NMMA Certification, however the minimum requirements outlined above are.

More information on this requirement can be found online at <http://www.nmma.org/certification/programs/csi/> or by contact Terry Leitz, Director of CSI programs, at [tletiz@nmma.org](mailto:tletiz@nmma.org).

#### **V. Model Applications, Master Model List (MML) & Annual Agreement**

All certified boat models must have a completed application on file with NMMA. For yachts 26' and greater, a **Yacht Application** must be submitted. For craft less than 26', a **Boat Certification Application** and the respective **Capacity Application** must be submitted.

Applications can be submitted electronically through the Online Application Submission secure website. At <http://certification.nmma.org/>, you can create, save and submit certification applications, and receive real time feedback on any missing items or possible errors. Access to the website must be given by NMMA staff; please contact NMMA Engineering Standards staff for secure, personal access codes.

Paper versions of the applications can also be found online at <http://www.nmma.org/certification/appforms/>. NMMA urges manufacturers to only submit paper applications when absolutely necessary, as there is a waiting period for processing.

Applications must be submitted for all new models; if a model has not changed from one model year to the next, we can simply roll it over. The applications ask for simple information in most cases, however for several components, we require **NMMA Type Accepted** numbers (see part VI).



The Master Model List (MML) is the list of all boats you manufacture for sale in the United States, and thusly the list of boats which are pursuing NMMA Certification. The MML lists all the models we have on file for the model year, and requires your signature. For boats less than 26', your signature confirms agreement on the capacities we calculate. Capacity tags placed on boats must contain the capacities listed on the signed MML.

NMMA also requires you submit the Annual Certification agreement at the start of the model year; this can be found online at <http://www.nmma.org/certification/appforms/>.

## **VI. Type Accepted Components & Listed Components**

### Type Accepted Components

Several components on NMMA Certified boats must be NMMA Type Accepted (TA), which means NMMA has received passing test reports to ABYC standards for the respective component. Once a component is Type Accepted, it is given a TA number which you, the boat builder, enter on the Certification application.

The list of components required to be Type Accepted includes:

- Bilge Pumps
- Bilge Blowers
- Fuel hoses
- Fuel tanks
- Horns
- Navigation Lights
- Steering Helms
- Steering Wheels

The Type Accepted List of currently Accepted Components can be found online at <http://www.nmma.org/certification/programs/typeaccepted/?catid=1539>; Type Accepted components are also listed within the online applications.

If a component is not currently Type Accepted, the Component manufacturers must independently register their components with NMMA, by submitting the annual type Accepted agreement and fee (found online at <http://www.nmma.org/certification/programs/typeaccepted/>) along with the test reports.

NMMA Certified boat builders who also manufacture components, such as fuel tanks, are not required to submit the additional Type Accepted annual fee; the Type Accepted program is free for NMMA Certified boat manufacturers.



Please note, NMMA does not accept CE Certificates or tests reports to standards other than ABYC.

### Listed Components

Similar to the Type Accepted Components program, NMMA verifies compliance to ABYC standards of several additional components, however without the mandatory registration in the TA program. The Listed Components program is designed to assist you with an added level of verification that a component meets the applicable standards.

The Listed Components program includes:

- Marine Generators; ABYC A-27
- Battery chargers/Inverters/Inverter chargers; ABYC A-31
- Galvanic Isolators; ABYC A-28
- Galley Stoves; ABYC A-3
- Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Equipment; ABYC A-6
- LPG and CNG Appliances; ABYC A-26
- CO Detectors; ABYC A-24
- Gas Detectors; ABYC A-14
- Hatches/windows/port lights; ABYC H-3
- Seats; ABYC H-31
- Marine Inboard Engines; ABYC P-4
- Boarding Ladders; ABYC H-41

The list of NMMA Listed Components can be found online at <http://www.nmma.org/certification/programs/listedcomponents/>.

## **VII. Inspection**

The physical inspection is at the heart of the NMMA Certifications program. An independent NMMA Inspector will inspect each model annually to ensure each craft is compliant with the Standards for the respective model year. NMMA Inspectors are not NMMA employees, but rather highly trained and NMMA approved contractors. The Inspector's role is only to conduct the actual inspection; all other assistance with NMMA Certification and requirements shall be with NMMA staff. Please note that the inspector's role is not to interpret standards. If you have any questions about the application of a standard, contact NMMA.

When the inspection is complete, NMMA receives the Inspection Report, and after internal review, NMMA will issue you the formal Inspection Report, which bears the signature of NMMA Engineering Standards staff.



The inspection costs to a boat builder include the Inspection time, billed at an hourly rate, the inspectors travel time and basic travel expenses. Inspectors always attempt to schedule several inspections in a geographical region at once to help keep costs down.

To schedule an inspection, manufacturers should contact NMMA or their Inspector, if one has already been assigned.

### **VIII. Variance Response**

The Variance Response is a document outlining your corrective actions to the variances found during the inspection; this is due to NMMA within 30 days of your receipt of the formal Inspection Report. This document must describe how each item on the Inspection Report was addressed to come into compliance with the ABYC standards; this can include photographs, test reports and so forth. NMMA will review your response and sign off on it when satisfied all items have been addressed.

This response, when accepted, will satisfy compliance to the ABYC Standards used for NMMA Certification. A follow-up inspection is not usually required to verify compliance; however NMMA does reserve the right to re-inspect before granting NMMA Certification.

Please be sure to include the manufacturer's name, inspection date, manufacturer representative's name and signature on the Variance Response.

### **IX. Compliance Seminar**

NMMA hosts an annual seminar each December to outline the changes for the upcoming model year and updates to ABYC Standards. This seminar brings together industry experts and boat builders into a three day format to teach, discuss and foster an environment to help each other succeed. NMMA Certified manufacturers are required to send at least one representative every other year.

For more information, please visit

<http://www.nmma.org/certification/compliance/compseminars/>.

### **X. Compliance Specialist**

Each boat manufacturer is required to have a Compliance Specialist on staff, who is one of your staff members that has taken and passed the NMMA annually administered Compliance Specialist Exams. These exams are published each December and due to NMMA by March 1 of each year. There is a cost of \$15.00 per exam; however testing is free for individuals who attend the annual Compliance



Seminar. The Compliance Specialist exams cover 15 different topics each year, and you are only required to take those which pertain to the types of boat you build.

The expectation of a Compliance Specialist is to be the primary contact at your company for Certification, who we may contact with questions regarding items applicable items to your NMMA Certification.

More information on becoming a Compliance Specialist can be found at <http://www.nmma.org/certification/compliance/specialist.asp>.

## **XI. Joint CE and NMMA Inspections**

Many of NMMA's Inspectors are qualified to conduct inspections for CE Certification. You can receive both the NMMA and CE Inspection at the same time, reducing travel expenses.

Please notify NMMA if you wish to participate in this when registering for Certification; your inspector can give you more information on the requirements and other costs associated with CE Certification.

## **XII. Representing boat builders in Standards work**

NMMA Engineering Standards staff holds committee positions on all of the ABYC Project Technical Committees (PTC). We represent you in ongoing revisions and creation of ABYC standards, to help ensure standards are practical. If you have an issue with a standard that you feel to be problematic or impractical, contact NMMA Engineering Standards staff and we will assist in interpretation and work with ABYC to seek resolution.

## **XIII. NMMA Capacity Tags and Yacht Plates**

NMMA produces both Capacity Tags for boats less than 26 feet and Yacht Plates for boats 26 feet and greater. These high quality and durable tags contain the NMMA Certified logo and where applicable, the required USCG and EPA statements of conformity.

These are offered exclusively to NMMA Certified boat manufacturers, and help you to promote you NMMA Certified status while displaying required information.

For more information on NMMA Capacity Tags and Yacht Plates, visit <http://www.nmma.org/certification/publications/pricesheets.asp>.



#### **XIV. NMMA Labels, Brochures and Products**

NMMA produces products and publications to help in risk management and promotion of NMMA Certified Status, including:

- Warning Labels
- Information Labels
- Owners Manuals
- Safety Brochures
- NMMA Certified Decals

To see a complete list of these products, please visit <http://www.nmma.org/certification/publications/>.

#### **XV. Costs of Certification**

NMMA Certification costs are dependent on NMMA membership status. Various costs include the annual certification agreement fee, the inspection time and the inspectors travel time and expenses.

Inspectors attempt to schedule several inspections in a geographical region when possible, to split expenses and keep costs low for you.

Costs are outlined as follows and subject to change; be sure to reference the Annual Agreement which stipulates costs for the current model year:

##### **Boat and Yacht Certification for NMMA Members**

Certification Program Fee (per facility)	\$150.00 per hour (minimum 4 hours)  Plus inspector's travel costs *THIS IS BILLED AFTER THE INSPECTION VISIT.
Agreement Processing Fee	\$200 Per Manufacturer (if entire line is either less then 26 feet OR greater than 26 feet)  \$300 Per Manufacturers (if entire line includes craft both under and over 26 feet)





**Boat and Yacht Certification for Non-NMMA Members**

Certification Program Fee (per facility)	\$300.00 per hour (minimum 4 hours) *THIS \$1200.00 IS BILLED UP FRONT.  Plus inspector's travel costs *THIS IS BILLED AFTER THE INSPECTION VISIT.
Agreement Processing Fee	NMMA certification dues will be determined by the below chart and based on annual revenues. These rates will be billed up front.

**Certification Program Fee (per facility)**

**Based on annual revenues of the company**

\$1,300.00	Under \$2.5 million
\$1,600.00	\$2.5 -\$5 million
\$1,800.00	\$5-10 million
\$2,800.00	\$10-15 million
\$3,800.00	\$15-20 million
\$5,300.00	\$20-30 million
\$8,300.00	\$30-40 million
\$12,300.00	\$40-50 million
\$15,300.00	\$50-65 million
\$21,300.00	\$65-100 million

**XVI. Who to contact**

**For NMMA Certification and Technical questions:**

Robert Newsome  
Director, Engineering Standards  
[rnewsome@nmma.org](mailto:rnewsome@nmma.org)  
(312) 946-6275

**For NMMA Certification Applications and Master Model Lists:**

Alice Brown  
Certification Program Manager  
[abrown@nmma.org](mailto:abrown@nmma.org)  
(312) 946-6214

**For NMMA Membership:**

Brian Welsh  
Director of Membership  
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