



Designation: F1657 – 96 (Reapproved 2007)

Standard Practice for Emergency Joining of Booms with Incompatible Connectors¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1657; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice provides a standard practice for the joining of oil spill containment boom connectors in emergencies.

1.2 The use of this connection method may adversely affect the total tensile strength of the connected booms.

1.3 These criteria are intended to define mating requirements that will allow the emergency or occasional connection of unlike connectors.

1.4 This practice is not intended to replace Specification F962.

1.5 This practice does not address the compatibility of spill control equipment with spill products. It is the user's responsibility to ensure that any equipment selected is compatible with the anticipated spilled material.

1.6 There is no guarantee that all of the connectors in use today can accept the holes spaced as required without interfering with existing bolt holes or other connector features.

1.7 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.8 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* For a specific precautionary statement, see 3.2.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

F818 [Terminology Relating to Spill Response Barriers](#)

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F20 on Hazardous Substances and Oil Spill Response and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F20.11 on Control.

Current edition approved April 1, 2007. Published May 2007. Originally approved in 1996. Last previous edition approved in 2002 as F1657 – 96 (2002). DOI: 10.1520/F1657-96R07.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

F962 [Specification for Oil Spill Response Boom Connection: Z-Connector](#)

F1093 [Test Methods for Tensile Strength Characteristics of Oil Spill Response Boom](#)

F1523 [Guide for Selection of Booms in Accordance With Water Body Classifications](#)

3. Significance and Use

3.1 The use of this practice for the emergency joining of booms will not guarantee the effective performance of the joined boom sections, since each boom design and the environmental conditions of each incident govern the overall performance.

3.2 Historically, different types of end connectors have been produced. This practice addresses the operational need to connect different types, during spill incidents. (**Warning**—Use of this practice with similar or different sizes of boom may cause the transmission of unwanted loading such as, tension loading and bending moments on certain boom parts resulting in possible premature failure of the containment system.)

3.3 There are a wide range of boom connector configurations presently in use. These connectors were based upon some or all of the following design criteria: -11657-962007

3.3.1 Connect and transfer tensile loads between boom sections,

3.3.2 Minimize oil leakage between boom sections,

3.3.3 Be easily connectable in the presence of dirt, oil or ice, or a combination thereof,

3.3.4 Be quickly and easily connected and disconnected, in and out of the water,

3.3.5 Maintain boom performance (freeboard, heave response, conformance, stability, and so forth),

3.3.6 Be unaffected by temperature extremes,

3.3.7 Have no protruding parts that could snag, injure, or puncture,

3.3.8 Be light weight and buoyant,

3.3.9 Be operatively symmetrical,

3.3.10 Require no special tools for installation or removal,

3.3.11 Require no loose parts for connection,

3.3.12 Extend to the full height and draft of the boom,