
**Small craft — Stability and buoyancy
assessment and categorization —**

**Part 1:
Non-sailing boats of hull length
greater than or equal to 6 m**

Petits navires — Évaluation et catégorisation de la stabilité et de la flottabilité —

Partie 1: Bateaux à propulsion non vélique d'une longueur de coque supérieure ou égale à 6 m

ISO 12217-1:2022

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 188, *Small craft*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 464, *Small Craft*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 12217-1:2015), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The main changes are as follows:

- the Normative references have been updated;
- the “allowance for the maximum mass of optional equipment and fittings not included in the manufacturer’s basic outfit” has been moved from [3.4.4](#) (maximum load) to [3.4.5](#) (maximum load condition);
- in [Clause H.1](#), the first paragraph has been slightly reworded as a Note, so as to clearly make an informative reference to ISO 10240, which has been moved from [Clause 2](#) to the Bibliography;
- in [Annex J](#), the calculation worksheet No. 1 has been corrected to reflect the changes in [3.4.4](#) and [3.4.5](#);
- minor editorial changes throughout the document.

A list of all parts in the ISO 12217 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

This document enables the determination of the limiting environmental conditions for which an individual boat has been designed.

It enables the boat to be assigned to a design category appropriate to its design and maximum load. The design categories used align with those in the Recreational Craft Directive of the European Union, EU Directive 2013/53/EU.

The design category given in respect of stability and buoyancy is that for which the boat satisfies all the requirements according to [5.3](#), as summarized in [Annex I](#).

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Small craft — Stability and buoyancy assessment and categorization —

Part 1:

Non-sailing boats of hull length greater than or equal to 6 m

CAUTION — Compliance with this document does not guarantee total safety or total freedom of risk from capsize or sinking.

IMPORTANT — The electronic file of this document contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of the document. Users should therefore consider printing this document using a colour printer.

1 Scope

This document specifies methods for evaluating the stability and buoyancy of intact (i.e. undamaged) boats. The flotation characteristics of boats susceptible to swamping are also encompassed.

The evaluation of stability and buoyancy properties using this document will enable the boat to be assigned to a design category (A, B, C or D) appropriate to its design and maximum total load.

This document is principally applicable to boats propelled by human or mechanical power of 6 m up to 24 m hull length. However, it can also be applied to boats of under 6 m if they do not attain the desired design category specified in ISO 12217-3 and they are decked and have quick-draining recesses which comply with ISO 11812.

In relation to habitable multihulls, this document includes assessment of susceptibility to inversion, definition of viable means of escape and requirements for inverted flotation.

This document excludes:

- inflatable and rigid-inflatable boats covered by the ISO 6185 series, except for references made in the ISO 6185 series to specific clauses of the ISO 12217 series;
- personal watercraft covered by ISO 13590 and other similar powered craft;
- gondolas and pedalos;
- sailing surfboards;
- surfboards, including powered surfboards;
- hydrofoils and hovercraft when not operating in the displacement mode; and
- submersibles.

NOTE Displacement mode means that the boat is only supported by hydrostatic forces.

It does not include or evaluate the effects on stability of towing, fishing, dredging or lifting operations, which need to be separately considered if appropriate.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 2896:2001, *Rigid cellular plastics — Determination of water absorption*

ISO 3864-1:2011, *Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Part 1: Design principles for safety signs and safety markings*

ISO 6185-4:2011, *Inflatable boats — Part 4: Boats with a hull length of between 8 m and 24 m with a motor power rating of 15 kW and greater*

ISO 8666:2020, *Small craft — Principal data*

ISO 9093, *Small craft — Seacocks and through-hull fittings*

ISO 11812, *Small craft — Watertight or quick-draining recesses and cockpits*

ISO 12216, *Small craft — Windows, portlights, hatches, deadlights and doors — Strength and watertightness requirements*

ISO 12217-2:2022, *Small craft — Stability and buoyancy assessment and categorization — Part 2: Sailing boats of hull length greater than or equal to 6 m*

ISO 14946:2021, *Small craft — Maximum load capacity*

ISO 15083, *Small craft — Bilge-pumping systems*

ISO 15085, *Small craft — Man-overboard prevention and recovery*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

NOTE The meanings of certain symbols used in the definitions are given in [Clause 4](#).

3.1 Primary

3.1.1

design category

description of the sea and wind conditions for which a boat is assessed to be suitable

Note 1 to entry: See also [7.2](#).

3.1.2

non-sailing boat

boat for which the primary means of propulsion is other than by wind power, having *reference sail area* ([3.3.8](#)) $A_S < 0,07(m_{LDC})^{2/3}$, where m_{LDC} is the mass of the boat in the maximum load condition, expressed in kilograms

3.1.3 recess

volume open to the air that might retain water within the range of loading conditions and corresponding trims

EXAMPLE Cockpits, wells, open volumes or areas bounded by bulwarks or coamings.

Note 1 to entry: Cabins, shelters or lockers provided with closures according to the requirements of ISO 12216 are not recesses.

Note 2 to entry: Cockpits that are open aft to the sea are considered to be recesses. Flush decks without bulwarks or coamings are not recesses.

3.1.4 quick-draining recess

recess fulfilling all the requirements of ISO 11812 for “quick-draining cockpits and recesses”

Note 1 to entry: According to its characteristics, a cockpit may be considered to be quick-draining for one design category, but not for a higher category.

3.1.5 watertight recess

recess fulfilling all the requirements of ISO 11812 for “watertight cockpits and recesses”

Note 1 to entry: This term only implies requirements in respect of watertightness and sill heights, but not those for drainage.

3.1.6 fully enclosed boat

boat in which the horizontal projection of the sheerline area comprises any combination of

- watertight deck and superstructure, and/or
- quick-draining recesses complying with ISO 11812, and/or
- watertight recesses complying with ISO 11812 with a combined volume of less than $(L_H B_H F_M)/40$, and

all closing appliances have their degree of watertightness in accordance with ISO 12216

Note 1 to entry: The size of recesses permitted for boats of design category A, B or some boats of design category C is restricted by the requirements of [6.5](#).

3.1.7 partially protected boat

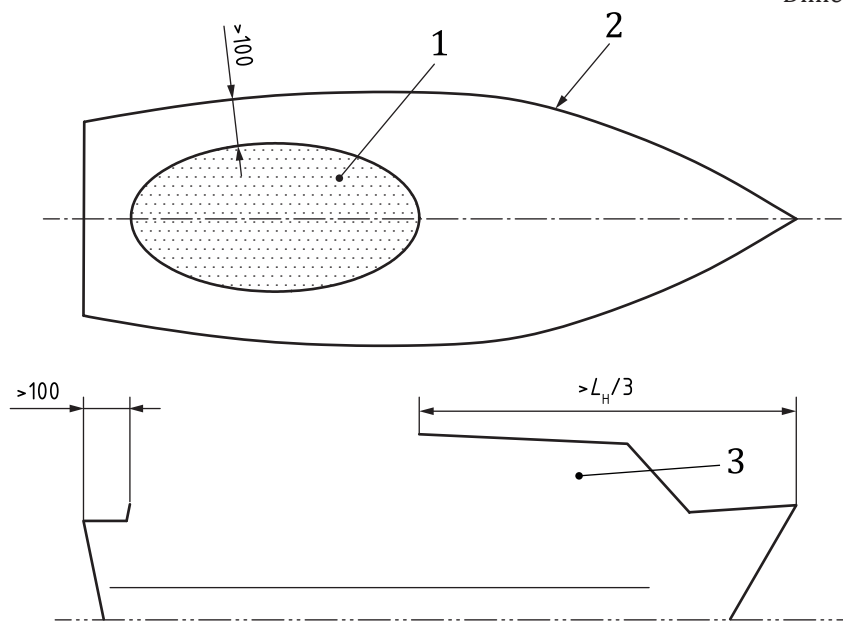
boat which does not fulfil the definition of a fully-enclosed boat and in which the plan projected area of decking, cabins, shelters, outboard engine wells or other rigid covers which are watertight from above according to ISO 12216 and which immediately shed water directly overboard (i.e. not via drains) and

- comprises at least one-third of the plan projected area of the sheerline, and
- includes all the area within $L_H/3$ from the bow, and
- includes at least 100 mm inboard from the sheerline,

except that the area of any watertight recesses with a total volume of less than $(L_H B_H F_M)/40$ might shed water via drains

Note 1 to entry: This is illustrated in [Figure 1](#).

Note 2 to entry: Outboard engine wells are considered to provide a covering suitable for this purpose.



Key

- 1 recess area open from above (less than two-thirds of total sheerline area)
- 2 sheerline
- 3 open shelter or enclosed cabin

Figure 1 — Partially protected boat

3.1.8

habitable boat

boat having a fully enclosed cabin with rigid roof fitted with one or more bunks, benches, pipecots, hammocks or similar locations that can be used for sleeping when the boat is under way

Note 1 to entry: A boat is considered to be “habitable” if a fabric closure is used instead of a rigid door, or the cabin has fabric sides.

Note 2 to entry: The following are not considered to render a boat “habitable”:

- a cockpit tent, or
- an open-sided cuddy intended to provide limited protection from spray, provided it is not fitted with fabric closures all round.

Note 3 to entry: Locations used for sleeping have minimum dimensions of 1,5 m diagonal length, 0,4 m width at the widest point, and with a minimum headroom of 0,4 m over the length. The cabin sole and compartments designated by the builder to be used exclusively for storage and referenced in the owner’s manual are not included.

3.2 Downflooding

3.2.1

downflooding opening

opening in the hull or deck (including the edge of a recess) that might admit water into the interior or bilge of a boat, or a recess, apart from those excluded in [6.1.1.6](#)

3.2.2 downflooding angle

ϕ_D

angle of heel at which downflooding openings (apart from those excluded in [6.1.1.6](#)) become immersed, when the boat is in calm water and in the appropriate loading condition at design trim

Note 1 to entry: Where openings are not symmetrical about the centreline of the boat, the case resulting in the smallest angle is used.

Note 2 to entry: The following are specifically considered:

- ϕ_D is the downflooding angle to any downflooding opening
- ϕ_{DA} is the angle of heel at which openings which are not marked “KEEP SHUT WHEN UNDER WAY” having a combined total area, expressed in square centimetres (cm²), greater than the number represented by $1,2L_H B_H F_M$ first become immersed;

Note 3 to entry: Downflooding angle is expressed in degrees.

3.2.3 downflooding height

h_D

smallest height above the waterline to any downflooding opening, apart from those excluded in [6.1.1.6](#), when the boat is upright in calm water and in the maximum load condition, measured to the critical downflooding point which might be within pipes or ducts inside the hull

Note 1 to entry: Downflooding height is expressed in metres.

Note 2 to entry: See [Figure D.1 c](#)).

3.3 Dimensions, areas and angles

3.3.1 length of hull

L_H

length of the hull measured according to ISO 8666

Note 1 to entry: Length of hull is expressed in metres.

3.3.2 length waterline

L_{WL}

waterline length measured according to ISO 8666 when the boat is upright in calm water, in the appropriate loading condition and at design trim

Note 1 to entry: For multihull boats, L_{WL} relates to that of the longest individual hull.

Note 2 to entry: Length waterline is expressed in metres.

3.3.3 beam of hull

B_H

maximum beam of the hull using the method of ISO 8666; for catamaran and trimaran boats, maximum beam across the outer hulls

Note 1 to entry: Beam of hull is expressed in metres.

3.3.4

beam waterline

B_{WL}

greatest beam measured according to ISO 8666 at the waterline in calm water, which for multihull boats is the sum of the maximum waterline beams of all hulls, the boat being upright, in the appropriate loading condition and at design trim

Note 1 to entry: Beam waterline is expressed in metres.

3.3.5

freeboard amidships

F_M

distance of the sheerline or deck above the waterline at $L_{WL}/2$ measured according to ISO 8666, the boat being upright, in the appropriate loading condition and at design trim

Note 1 to entry: Freeboard amidships is expressed in metres.

Note 2 to entry: Where no loading condition is specified, maximum load condition should be assumed.

3.3.6

draught of canoe body

T_C

draught of the main buoyant part of the hull(s) below the waterline, as defined in ISO 8666, the boat being upright in the appropriate loading condition and at design trim

Note 1 to entry: Draught of canoe body excludes appendages such as rudders or skegs and is expressed in metres.

3.3.7

windage area

A_{LV}

projected profile area of hull, superstructures, deckhouses, outboard motors and spars above the waterline at the appropriate loading condition, the boat being upright

Note 1 to entry: Canopies and screens that can be erected when under way in bad weather are included, e.g. cockpit dodgers, pram hoods.

Note 2 to entry: Windage area is expressed in square metres.

3.3.8

reference sail area

A_S

actual profile area of sails set abaft a mast, plus the maximum profile areas of all masts, plus reference triangle area(s) forward of each mast as defined in ISO 8666

Note 1 to entry: Sail area is expressed in square metres.

3.3.9

angle of vanishing stability

ϕ_V

angle of heel nearest the upright (other than upright) in the appropriate loading condition at which the transverse stability righting moment is zero

Note 1 to entry: This is determined assuming that there is no offset load, and that all potential downflooding openings are considered to be watertight.

Note 2 to entry: Where a boat has recesses which are not quick-draining, ϕ_V is to be taken as the downflooding angle to these recesses, unless the loss of buoyancy due to such recesses is fully accounted for in determining ϕ_V .

Note 3 to entry: Angle of vanishing stability is expressed in degrees.

3.4 Condition, mass and volume

3.4.1

empty craft condition

empty boat including fittings and equipment as listed below but excluding all optional equipment and fittings not included in the manufacturer's basic outfit:

- a) structure: comprising all the structural parts, including any fixed ballast keel and/or drop keel/centreboard/daggerboard(s) and rudder(s);
- b) ballast: any fixed ballast installed;
- c) internal structure and accommodation: bulkheads and partitions, insulation, lining, built-in furniture, flotation material, windows, hatches and doors, permanently installed mattresses and upholstery materials;
- d) permanently installed engine(s) and fuel system: comprising inboard engine(s), including all supplies and controls as needed for their operation, permanently installed fuel systems, including tanks;
- e) fluids in permanently installed systems: residual working fluids as needed for their operation (see examples below), but excluding contents of fluid ballast systems and tanks, and main storage tanks which are included in maximum load;

EXAMPLE Fluids in hot or cold water, fuel, lubricating or hydraulic oil systems.

- f) internal equipment, including:
 - all items of equipment permanently attached to the craft, e.g. tanks, toilet system(s), water transfer equipment;
 - bilge pumping system(s), cooking and heating devices, cooling equipment, ventilation system(s);
 - electrical installation and equipment, including permanently installed batteries mounted in the position intended by the builder;
 - fixed navigational and electronic equipment;
 - fixed firefighting equipment, where fitted;
- g) external equipment, including:
 - all permanently attached standard or specified deck fittings, e.g. guardrails, pulpits and pushpits, bowsprits and their attachments, bathing platforms, boarding ladders, steering equipment, winches, sprayhood(s);
 - awning(s), cockpit tables, gratings, signal mast(s), where fitted;
 - mast(s), boom(s), standing and running rigging, in the stowed position ready for use; all standing and running rigging in place

Note 1 to entry: The mass in the empty craft condition is denoted by m_{EC} and is expressed in kilograms.

3.4.2

light craft condition

empty craft condition plus *standard equipment* (3.5.12) plus removable ballast (whether solid or liquid) when supplied and/or intended by the manufacturer to be carried when the boat is afloat, with elements positioned as follows:

- a) where provision is made for propulsion by outboard engine(s) of more than 3 kW, the heaviest engine(s) recommended for the boat by the manufacturer is(are) mounted in the working position(s);

- b) where batteries are fitted, they are mounted in the position intended by the builder, and if there is no specific stowage provided for batteries, the mass of one battery for each engine over 7 kW is allowed for, and located within 1,0 m of the engine location;
- c) all upwind sails supplied or recommended by the builder, onboard and rigged ready for use, but not hoisted, e.g. mainsail on boom, roller furling sails furled, hanked foresails on stay stowed on foredeck

Note 1 to entry: For the minimum mass of outboard engines and batteries, refer to [Tables F.1](#) and [F.2](#).

Note 2 to entry: The mass in the light craft condition is denoted by m_{LC} and is expressed in kilograms.

3.4.3

minimum operating condition

boat in the light craft condition with the following additions:

- a) mass to represent the crew, positioned on the centreline at the highest control position that can accommodate them, of:
 - 75 kg where $L_H \leq 8$ m,
 - 150 kg where $8 \text{ m} < L_H \leq 16$ m,
 - 225 kg where $16 \text{ m} < L_H < 24$ m;
- b) non-edible stores and equipment normally carried on the boat and not included in the manufacturer's list of standard equipment

EXAMPLE Loose internal equipment and tools, spare parts, dishes, kitchenware and cutlery, additional anchors, dinghy and outboard if carried aboard.

Note 1 to entry: Liquids in main storage tanks (e.g. fuel, drinking water, black and grey water, live wells, bait tanks, etc.) are excluded.

Note 2 to entry: Water ballast in tanks which are symmetrical about the centreline, and which are intended by the builder to be used for variable asymmetric ballasting while under way, is excluded.

Note 3 to entry: The mass in the minimum operating condition is denoted by m_{MO} and is expressed in kilograms.

3.4.4

maximum load

load which the boat is designed to carry in addition to the light craft condition, comprising:

- the crew limit at 75 kg each;
- the personal effects of the crew;
- stores and cargo (if any), dry provisions, consumable liquids;
- contents of all permanently installed storage tanks filled to 95 % of their maximum capacity, including fuel, drinking water, black water, grey water, lubricating and hydraulic oil, bait tanks and/or live wells; plus ballast water at 100 % capacity;
- consumable liquids in portable tanks (drinking water, fuel) filled to 95 % of the maximum capacity;
- dinghy or other small craft intended to be carried aboard, and any outboard motor associated with them;
- liferaft(s) if carried in excess of the minimum required in essential safety equipment;
- non-edible stores and equipment normally carried on the boat and not included in the manufacturer's list of standard equipment, e.g. loose internal equipment and tools, spare parts, additional anchors, dinghy and outboard if carried aboard;

Note 1 to entry: Liferrafts are not included in essential safety equipment for design categories C and D.

Note 2 to entry: As a guide, not less than 20 kg per person should be allowed for personal effects on habitable boats.

Note 3 to entry: As a guide, the mass of yachting liferafts varies from approximately $12 + 2CL$ (kg) to double this, according to specification.

Note 4 to entry: The mass of maximum load is denoted by m_{ML} and is expressed in kilograms.

3.4.5

maximum load condition

boat in the light craft condition with the maximum load added and an allowance for the maximum mass of optional equipment and fittings not included in the manufacturer's basic outfit so as to produce the design trim, the crew being in positions typically used when the boat is under way (e.g. within the cabin, cockpit, deckhouse or wheelhouse) such positions being designated by the builder

Note 1 to entry: The mass in the maximum load condition is denoted by m_{LDC} and is expressed in kilograms.

3.4.6

loaded arrival condition

boat in the maximum load condition minus 85 % of the maximum capacity of fixed or portable storage tanks for fuel, oils and drinking water, and minus 90 % of edible stores, but including the worst combination of optional fittings or equipment with respect to stability

Note 1 to entry: In this condition, tanks have 10 % of their maximum capacity remaining.

Note 2 to entry: The mass in the loaded arrival condition is denoted by m_{LA} and is expressed in kilograms.

3.4.7

displacement volume

V_D

volume of displacement of the boat that corresponds to the appropriate loading condition, taking the density of water as $1\,025\text{ kg/m}^3$

Note 1 to entry: Displacement volume is expressed in cubic metres.

3.5 Other terms and definitions

3.5.1

calculation wind speed

v_W

wind speed to be used for calculations

Note 1 to entry: Calculation wind speed is expressed in metres per second.

3.5.2

crew

collective description of all persons onboard a boat

3.5.3

crew limit

CL

maximum number of persons (with a mass of 75 kg each) used when assessing the design category