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**Small craft — Craft identification —  
Coding system**

*Petits navires — Identification du bateau — Système de codage*

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# Contents

	Page
Foreword.....	iv
<b>1 Scope.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Composition of craft identification number.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5 Requirements.....</b>	<b>3</b>
5.1 Size.....	3
5.2 Permanency of marking.....	3
5.3 Location.....	4
5.4 Duplicate identification number.....	4
5.5 Time of marking.....	4
5.6 Display format.....	4
<b>6 Additional information.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Bibliography.....</b>	<b>5</b>

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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](http://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](http://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](http://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 fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO 10087:2019), of which it constitutes a minor revision.

The changes are as follows:

- [Clause 2](#) has been updated;
- in [3.4](#), a reference to the source has been added;
- a note has been added in [4.5](#);
- a Bibliography has been added.

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

# Small craft — Craft identification — Coding system

## 1 Scope

This document establishes a coding system to achieve identification of any small craft in terms of:

- a) identification code of the country of the manufacturer of the craft;
- b) identification code of the manufacturer;
- c) serial number;
- d) month and year of manufacture;
- e) model year.

This document is applicable to small craft of all types and materials, of hull length,  $L_H$ , up to 24 m.

## 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 3166-1:2020, *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions — Part 1: Country code*

## 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/>

### 3.1

#### **craft identification number**

#### **watercraft identification number**

unique series of numerals, letters and a hyphen, permanently affixed to a craft hull

### 3.2

#### **manufacturer**

natural or legal person who manufactures a product, or has such a product designed and/or manufactured, and markets that product under his name or trademark

### 3.3

#### **country of manufacturer**

country where the *manufacturer* (3.2) who places the product on the market is established

**3.4  
small craft  
craft**

recreational boat, and other watercraft using similar equipment, of up to 24 m length of hull ( $L_H$ )

[SOURCE: ISO 8666:2020, 3.15]

**4 Composition of craft identification number**

**4.1** A craft identification number shall consist of 14 consecutive characters plus a hyphen as specified in 4.2 to 4.5 without intervening spaces, slashes or dashes (see example in 4.6).

**4.2** The first two characters, followed by a hyphen, designate the code of the country of the manufacturer as specified in the Alpha-2 code in ISO 3166-1:2020. It is the country in which the manufacturer is established and not necessarily where the craft is manufactured (see Example).

**EXAMPLE** If a manufacturer established in South Africa assembles a craft in Norway, Turkey and Poland, each of those craft would bear the country code of South Africa.

**4.3** The next three characters are the unique manufacturer’s identification code. This code may be:

- a) a unique code of the manufacturer; or
- b) a code of a national authority or recognized organization.

**NOTE** A recognized organization is one that is authorized by a national authority.

These characters may consist of numerals and/or letters, except for the numerals 0 and 1.

**4.4** The following five characters indicate the unique serial number for each individual craft.

The serial number shall consist of numerals and/or letters, except for the letters I, O and Q.

**4.5** The last four characters designate the month and year of manufacture, and the model year.

The month of manufacture shall be coded according to [Table 1](#).

**Table 1 — Codes representing month of manufacture**

Month	Code	Month	Code
January	A	July	G
February	B	August	H
March	C	September	I
April	D	October	J
May	E	November	K
June	F	December	L

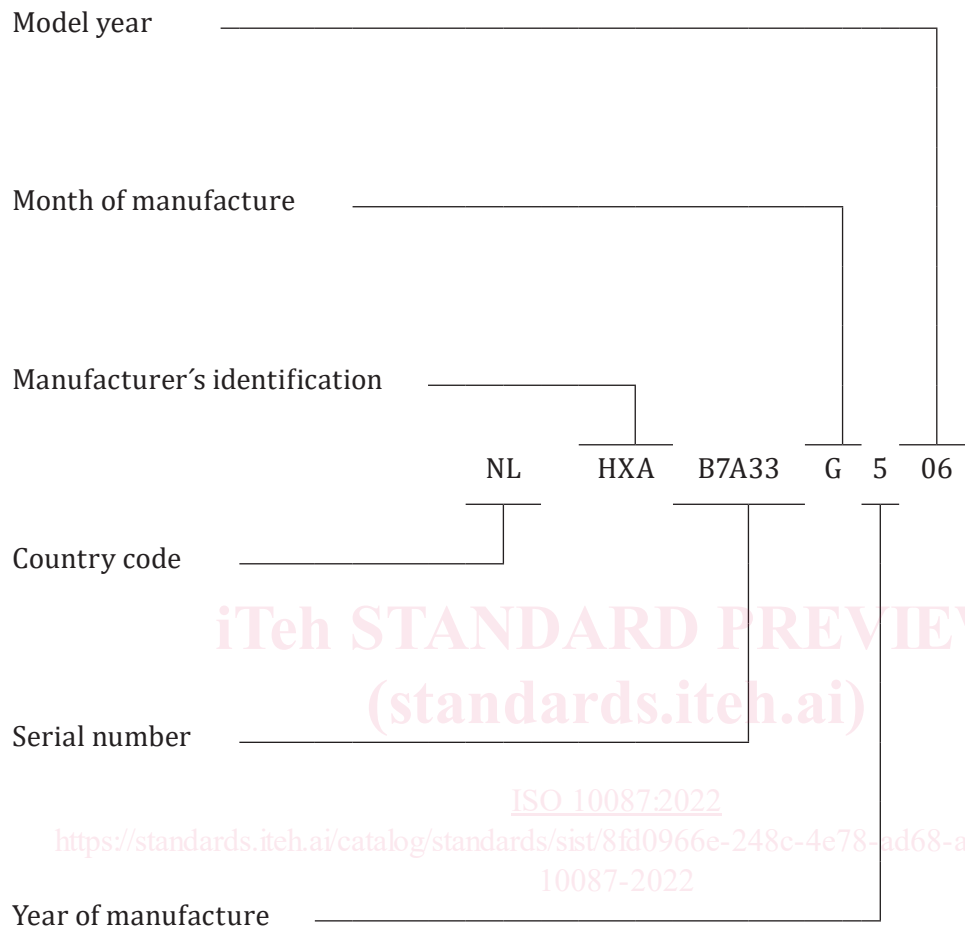
The month and year of manufacture date shall be no earlier than the date of construction or when assembly began and no later than the date the craft leaves the place of manufacture or assembly or is placed on the market. The month of manufacture shall be indicated by the code from [Table 1](#), the year of manufacture shall be identified by the last numeral of the production year.

The model year indicates the year when the specific craft is intended to be placed on the market.

**NOTE** The model year assigned to a specific craft is a period of twelve months that can extend across two calendar years. The manufacturer decides which of these is the model year.

**4.6 EXAMPLE:** NL-HXAB7A33G506

where



**NOTE** Spacing between characters shown in the figure above is for clarity purposes only. Actual identification number has no spaces as illustrated in the example.

Only capital letters of the Latin alphabet shall be utilized, except for those excluded in [4.4](#).

## 5 Requirements

### 5.1 Size

The characters shall be at least 6 mm high.

### 5.2 Permanency of marking

Each craft identification number shall be carved, burned, stamped, embossed, moulded, or otherwise permanently affixed, so that alteration, removal, or replacement will be obvious. If the number is on a separate plate, the plate shall be fastened in such a manner that its removal would normally cause some scarring of or damage to the surrounding hull area.

### 5.3 Location

**5.3.1** The identification number shall be visible on the starboard outboard side of the transom, or near the stern within 50 mm of the transom top, gunwale, hull/deck joint or its capping, whichever is lowest.

**5.3.2** On craft with a transom, the identification number shall be located on the starboard side of the transom.

**5.3.3** On craft without a transom or with a transom on which it is impractical to locate the identification number, it shall be affixed within 300 mm of the stern.

**5.3.4** On catamarans, the identification number shall be located as follows:

- a) hulls structurally permanently connected: on the starboard hull;
- b) hulls detachable but regarded as the primary structure: on both hulls;
- c) hulls readily removable and/or replaceable: on the aft cross-beam within 300 mm of the starboard hull; this also applies to catamaran-type pontoon boats.

**5.3.5** On trimarans, the identification number shall be located on the centre hull, in accordance with [5.3.1](#) or [5.3.2](#).

**5.3.6** On inflatable boats, the identification number shall be affixed on the rigid aft cross-beam or motor bracket within 300 mm of the starboard hull attachment. If the identification number is not readily visible due to the construction of the boat, it may be applied additionally to some other suitable structure of the boat, such as the console assembly.

**5.3.7** Rails, fittings or other accessories shall not obscure the identification number located as specified above. If the design of the craft would result in this, the identification number shall be located as near as possible to the required location to be visible.

### 5.4 Duplicate identification number

A duplicate identification number shall be affixed to a non-removable part of the craft in a location only known by the manufacturer. The duplicate identification number shall be located in the interior or beneath a fitting or item of hardware. Catamarans shall have this identification number in or on both hulls. The identification number should be located so that it is extremely difficult to reach and modify.

### 5.5 Time of marking

The identification number shall be affixed to the craft during the construction or assembly of the craft. In no case shall the craft be put on the market without it being affixed.

### 5.6 Display format

The identification number shall be displayed in alphanumerical characters (Arabic numerals and upper-case letters) and shall read from left to right.

## 6 Additional information

If additional information is displayed on the craft within 50 mm of the identification number, it shall be separated by means of borders or it shall be on a separate label so that it will not be interpreted as part of the identification number.



## Bibliography

- [1] ISO 8666:2020, *Small craft — Principal data*

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