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Standard Terminology Relating to Spill Response Booms and Barriers¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This document defines the terminology used in the field of spill response barriers. Only those terms commonly used or peculiar to this field have been included; no attempt has been made to list all terms used. Where a second term is in common use, “aka” is used to mean “also known as.”

1.2 Design, engineering, and performance terms are listed separately: **barrier**-design terminology (3.1), **barrier**-engineering terminology (3.2), and **barrier**-performance terminology (3.3).

1.3 Guidance on minimum dimensions and performance specifications for booms is provided in Guide **F1523**.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

F625 Practice for Classifying Water Bodies for Spill Control Systems

F1523 Guide for Selection of Booms in Accordance With Water Body Classifications

3. Terminology

3.1 *Barrier-Design Terminology*—Terms associated with Spill Response Barrier-Design:

General

boom—floating mechanical barrier used to control the movement of substances that float.

boom section—length of boom between two end connectors.

boom segment—repetitive identical portion of the boom section.

Types

air bubble barrier—special-purpose barrier created by rising stream of air bubbles and entrained water, produced by injecting air at some depth below water surface.

bottom-tension boom—boom with tension member located along the bottom of the skirt.

calm water boom—boom intended for use in calm waters (see Practice **F625** for environmental descriptors).

“curtain type” boom—boom consisting of a flexible skirt supported by flotation.

“fence type” boom—boom consisting of a self-supporting or stiffened membrane supported by flotation.

fire resistant boom (aka fire containment boom) —boom intended for containment of burning oil slicks.

ice boom—boom intended for use in ice-infested waters, designed to withstand effects of ice contact.

inflatable boom—boom that uses inflated gas-filled chambers as the flotation.

net boom—special purpose boom in which all or part of the membrane material is netting.

¹ This terminology 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.

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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.

open water boom—boom intended for use in open waters (see Practice F625 for environmental descriptors).

permanent boom—boom intended for long-term or permanent deployment.

plunging water jet barrier—special purpose barrier created by a series of coherent streams of water directed vertically downward into a body of water.

protected water boom—boom intended for use in protected waters with moderate environmental conditions (see Practice F625 for environmental descriptors).

river boom (aka fast water boom)—boom intended for use in currents greater than 1 knot.

sorbent boom—sorbent material contained or arranged in the form of a long cylinder.

weir boom (aka skimming boom/barrier)—boom that has a weir skimming device(s) built into its face.

Special Purpose Barriers

air bubble barrier—special purpose barrier created by rising stream of air bubbles and entrained water, produced by injecting air at some depth below water surface.

berms—a barrier for spills on land constructed of available materials such as earth, gravel, or snow.

ice slotting—in order to contain oil spilled under river ice, a slot is cut through the ice transverse to the direction of flow, capturing oil and preventing it from moving downstream.

net boom—special purpose boom in which all or part of the membrane material is netting.

plunging water jet barrier—special purpose barrier created by a series of coherent streams of water directed vertically downward into a body of water.

shore seal boom—boom that, when grounded, seals against the shoreline.

silt barrier—boom with very deep skirt used to control the movement of suspended sediments.

sorbent boom—sorbent material contained or arranged in the form of a long cylinder.

special purpose boom—boom that departs from the general characteristics of “fence type” and “curtain type” booms, either in design or intended use.

submersible boom—boom that normally resides on the seabed and is positioned by inflating with air, causing it to rise to the water surface.

water jet barrier—barrier created by stream of pressurized water spray directed across the water surface.

weir boom (aka skimming boom/barrier) underflow dams—boom that has a weir skimming device(s) built into its face; a barrier for spills in creeks, in which a dam is created and includes a pipe below the water level to allow the passage of water while still preventing the flow of oil on the surface. The upstream end of the pipe is submerged and the downstream end of the pipe is elevated.

Components

accessories—*optional* mechanical devices used on or in conjunction with a boom system but not included with the basic boom and end connector; for example, lights, paravanes, drogues, buoys, anchor systems, storage bags, boxes or reels, bulkhead connectors or repair kits, and so forth.

anchor point—structural point on the end connector or along the length of a boom section designed for the attachment of anchor or mooring lines.

ancillary equipment—mechanical devices *essential* to the operation of a given boom system; for example, air pumps, hydraulic power supplies, control manifolds, and so forth.

ballast—weight applied to the skirt to improve boom performance.

bridle—device attached to a boom to distribute the load exerted by towing or anchoring the boom.

buoyancy chamber (aka flotation chamber)—enclosed compartment of air or other buoyant material providing flotation for the boom.

end connector—device permanently attached to the boom used for joining boom sections to one another or to other accessory devices.