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

**Part 3:
Boats of hull length less than 6 m**

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

Partie 3: Bateaux d'une longueur de coque inférieure à 6 m





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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 on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#).

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 188, *Small craft*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 12217-3:2013), of which it constitutes a minor revision. It incorporates the following modifications:

- Introduction and [Clause 9.2](#): the reference to the European Directive has been updated (2013/53/EU);
- [Clause 1](#), [subclauses 6.2](#), [6.3.1.5 d](#)) [3](#)) and [F.2 g](#)): vulnerable has been replaced with susceptible.
- [Clause 3](#): definitions [3.1.1](#), [3.3.5](#) and [3.4.9](#) have been amended;
- [Subclause 6.3.2.2 c](#)): option 5 has been included;
- [Subclauses 6.4.2.3](#) and [6.4.2.4](#): the formulae coefficients have been corrected;
- [Subclauses 6.5.2.5](#) and [6.5.3.3 e](#)) [2](#)) and [Table G.1](#) have been slightly amended to remove inconsistencies.
- [Subclause 6.6.1](#) and [Table G.1](#): the formulae have been harmonised with ISO 12217-1;
- [Subclause 7.5.1 b](#)) has been aligned with the text in ISO 12217-2.
- [Subclause 9.2](#): the text has been amended;
- [Annex H](#): worksheets 2, 4, 6, 8 and 15 have been corrected to align with corrections listed above;
- [Annex I](#) has been added;
- Bibliography: reference to ISO 7010 has been added;
- Editorial and cross-referencing corrections have been made to definitions [3.2.2](#) and [3.2.3](#) and to [subclauses 6.4.1](#), [6.4.2.1](#), [6.4.2.2](#) and [6.4.2.3](#), to [Table G.2](#), and to [Annex H](#), worksheet 6.

ISO 12217 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Small craft — Stability and buoyancy assessment and categorization*:

ISO 12217-3:2015(E)

- *Part 1: Non-sailing boats of hull length greater than or equal to 6 m*
- *Part 2: Sailing boats of hull length greater than or equal to 6 m*
- *Part 3: Boats of hull length less than 6 m*

Introduction

This part of ISO 12217 enables the determination of the limiting environmental conditions to be determined 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.

[Annex H](#) provides worksheets to assist in the systematic assessment of a boat according to this part of ISO 12217.

Small craft — Stability and buoyancy assessment and categorization —

Part 3: Boats of hull length less than 6 m

CAUTION — Compliance with this part of ISO 12217 does not guarantee total safety or total freedom of risk from capsizing 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 part of ISO 12217 specifies methods for evaluating the stability and buoyancy of intact (i.e. undamaged) boats. The flotation characteristics of craft susceptible to swamping are also encompassed.

The evaluation of stability and buoyancy properties using this part of ISO 12217 will enable the boat to be assigned to a design category (C or D) appropriate to its design and maximum load.

This part of ISO 12217 is applicable to boats of hull length less than 6 m, whether propelled by human or mechanical power, except habitable sailing multihulls. Boats of hull length less than 6 m which are fitted with a full deck and quick-draining cockpit(s) complying with ISO 11812 may alternatively be assessed using ISO 12217-1 or ISO 12217-2 (for non-sailing and sailing boats, respectively), in which case higher design categories may be assigned.

In relation to habitable multihulls, this part of ISO 12217 includes assessment of susceptibility to inversion, definition of viable means of escape and requirements for inverted flotation.

This part of ISO 12217 excludes:

- inflatable and rigid-inflatable boats covered by ISO 6185, except for references made in ISO 6185 to specific clauses of ISO 12217;
- personal watercraft covered by ISO 13590 and other similar powered craft;
- aquatic toys;
- canoes and kayaks;
- gondolas and pedalos;
- sailing surfboards;
- surfboards, including powered surfboards;
- hydrofoils, foil stabilized boats 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.