

April 2025

TECHNICAL UPDATE

PROVIDING INDUSTRY GUIDANCE

ACCESS TO STANDARDS



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Introduction

The fundamental requirement for all recreational craft placed on the UK market is to ensure that the vessel meets the Recreational Craft Regulations 2017 SI 737 (RCR) and its Essential Requirements (ERs).

There are over 90 BS EN ISO standards that are harmonised to support the RCR. All the harmonised standards are available online and this guide has been created to assist you in choosing the most suitable standards access for your requirements.

Many of these standards relate to components, materials used in vessel construction or are appropriate for different sizes or types of craft, and therefore only a relatively small number may apply to any particular boat. The manufacturer of a complex and larger craft may need to focus on approximately 30 standards, a simple craft may only need 10 or less, and Inflatables, RIBs and PWCs have their own standards covering nearly all of the RCR's requirements.

Additionally, manufacturers of a single model may only require the use of a standard for a few weeks or a month, whilst those companies who manufacture many models or who are constantly designing new models may find the purchase of a standard to be more beneficial.

Some standards, such as those on the Watercraft Identification Coding (WIN) system, Principal Data, Graphic symbols and Owner's manual are relevant for nearly all boats.

All BS EN ISO standards are reviewed every 5 years to ensure that they are up to date with technological advances. The British Marine Technical team contribute to the ISO Technical Committee 188 which is tasked with the review of the standards associated with the RCR. At all stages we aim to represent the best interests of our members and as such with all standards revisions we constantly request our members participation in ensuring new and revised International, European and British standards meet industry requirements.

When draft standards are released for industry consultation members are notified in our Latest news weekly email. Whilst the Technical team works to ensure the database is current there are always changes within businesses and we would ask all members to register their technical contact details with the Technical team to ensure that all members who wish to take part in these standards consultations receive the draft standards notifications.

Access to Standards

There are multiple ways of accessing standards, with prices ranging from free to hundreds of pounds per standard. In this guide we will look at all these various methods but with a focus on online access to standards.

Online standards databases make using standards easier and more cost effective. You can choose to access standards from a library of over 60,000 British, European and adopted International standards direct from your desktop. Online access does offer:

Flexibility

Standards are available 24/7/365

Standards Revision

The online standards are updated daily and so the applicable standards will always be up to date.

Super-fast access to standards

Just browse, search and download the information you need. You'll find what you're looking for in seconds – searching by standard number, keyword or phrase.

More cost-effective than buying individual standards

Save money by choosing a collection of standards instead of buying individual standards.

What are the options?

With EN ISO Standards being available from multiple European Standards bodies in the EU there is competition in the market for selling standards. This has led to there being multiple options available for access. The difficult part is deciding what is financially the best option for you.

Free

British Standards can be accessed from a number of libraries, normally only in person on library based computers. Most Universities also offer full access to standards but this is limited to those studying at each university normally only with a university email address or login.

The British Library	Hertfordshire
Lancashire	Newcastle
Manchester	Nottingham
Kent	
Hull	
Leeds	
Oxfordshire	
Southampton IPC	

Buying

Standards can be bought from various vendors, either singularly or in packages.

BSi sell standards in English on their website <http://shop.bsigroup.com/>

Some other EU member states also sell standards but for lower prices

Estonian Centre for Standardisation in English <https://www.evs.ee/shop>

Example of Costs of BS EN ISO 15085: British Standards Institute	214.00 GBP	214.00 GBP
Estonian Centre for Standardisation	7.76 EUR	6.93 GBP

Online

What are the options?

Daily view-only access

Weekly view-only access

Monthly view-only access

Annual view-only access

ISO offer an On-line Browsing Platform (OBP), in which the scope, references and definitions are freely accessible for viewing, giving the ability to ascertain whether the standards scope covers the vessel being assessed.

With the following online access schemes, you are purchasing the ability to view and read the standards, downloading and/or printing is not an option. If you wish to print or download the standard you have to buy it.

Which package do I need?

With so many access options how do you decide which one is for you? Standards are used both in the design stage and the construction stage as well as being required when you are completing the vessels paperwork, Owner's manual and Technical file.

Only you can decide when you will want to refer to these standards, generally you will use the standards regularly during the design stage of the building process, with referencing once the build has started. With purchase options of Standards through the Estonian Standards Institute and the Bulgarian Institute of Standardisation at much reduced prices it could be financially beneficial to purchase the most used standards you refer to for constant reference.

Which standards do I need?

The RCR requirements, known as Essential Requirements (ER) cover all aspects of the boat from identification marks to strength of construction, stability and handling, from gas, electric and fuel system installations to owner's documentation. However the ER's are written in a generic way with no detailed technical characteristics of the design, materials, production or testing.

Standards developed for European Directives, such as the RCD, are mandated by the European Commission, and when published in the Official Journal are known as harmonised standards.

All CEN standards are published and implemented in each of the EU member states as national standards. In the UK BSI publishes these standards as BS EN xxxxx where xxxxx is the number of the standard given by CEN. Essentially a harmonised standard is an agreement between all participating members stating that the standard is acceptable for use in all countries and meets the previous national requirements of each country.

Using the harmonised standards "presumes" conformity with the directive, their application, however, is not mandatory. If harmonised standards are not suited to a specific product, any alternative standard or solution may be applied if it ensures equivalent safety. As it can be difficult to demonstrate equivalent safety, harmonised standards should be applied wherever possible.

RSG

The Recreational Craft Sectoral Group (RSG) was established to assist in the uniform application and interpretation of the Recreational Craft Directive (RCD) by all Notified Bodies and others parties with valid interest.

They produce an Annual guide, the RSG Guidelines, as an aid to the conformity assessment procedures followed by the Notified Bodies for recreational craft and their components. The guidelines consider the applicability of various parts of existing standards to different boat types.

Your first port of call when carrying out your vessel's ER assessment should be the RSG guide, it gives interpretations of what the RSG consider to be the most appropriate method of achieving compliance with the relevant Harmonised Standards for each of the ER's that apply to your vessel design and construction.

Standards scope

Once you have decided on the ER's that apply to your vessel and found the corresponding Harmonised Standards there is one more step, which is to check that your vessel is covered under the Scope of the standard.

Example:

Recreational Craft Directive 2013/53/EU states:-

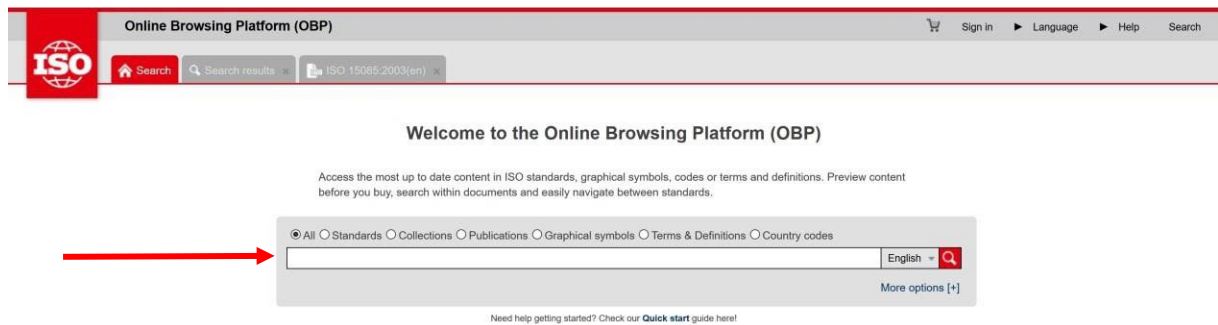
3.2. Stability and freeboard

The watercraft shall have sufficient stability and freeboard considering its design category in accordance with Section 1 and the manufacturer's maximum recommended load in accordance with point 3.6.

The RSG guidelines state that the standard for this ER is 12217

The EU Official Journal confirms the status of the standard as Harmonised

1. Is the vessel is covered under the scope of the standard? Go to the ISO online browsing platform at <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#home>
2. Type 12217 into the box



3. From the results select the relevant standard and click on the **title**:-

Online Browsing Platform (OBP)

Search results for ISO 15085:2003(en)

157 results for 12217

Sort by: Relevance Results per page: 10

Standards: 24

Collections: 1

Publications: 1

Graphical symbols: 2

Terms & Definitions: 131

Country codes: 1

ISO 12217-3:2015(en)
Small craft — Stability and buoyancy assessment and categorization — Part 3: Boats of hull length less than 6 m

ISO 12217-2:2015(en)
Small craft — Stability and buoyancy assessment and categorization — Part 2: Sailing boats of hull length greater than or equal to 6 m

ISO 12217-1:2015(en)
Small craft — Stability and buoyancy assessment and categorization — Part 1: Non-sailing boats of hull length greater than or equal to 6 m

4. This will take you to the first few pages of the standard in which you can check the scope. Click on scope on the left hand side of the page:-

Online Browsing Platform (OBP)

Search results for ISO 15085:2003(en) and ISO 12217-3:2015(en)

ISO 12217-3:2015(en) Small craft — Stability and buoyancy assessment and categorization — Part 3: Boats of hull length less than 6 m

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 - 5.2 Sailing or non-sailing
 - 5.3 Tests to be applied
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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:

Daily Access

Daily access (24 hrs) to EN ISO Standards is possible for standards that have been adopted by the Estonian Centre for Standardisation.

1. Go To <https://www.evs.ee/en/search> and click on Eng on the top right of the page to turn into English.
2. Ensure the following boxes are highlighted:

Status – only **Valid**

Language – English Estonian Estonian-English

Organisation – **ISO, IEC and Estonian Standards**

Language

English Estonian Estonian-English

Organisation

EVS ISO IEC Other

Status

Valid Draft Withdrawn

3. In the Chose directive box scroll to **Recreational Craft**

94/25/EC

The screenshot shows the EVS website search results for 'Recreational Craft'. The search bar on the left contains '2013/53/EU - Recreational craft and personal watercraft'. The search results table lists three standards:

Type	Name	Language	Format
NEW Main	EVS-EN IEC 61558-2-16:2025 Trafode, reaktorite, elektritoiteplokkide ja nende kombinatsioonide ohutus. Osa 2-16: Erinõuded ja katsesused kütatavatele toiteplokkidele ja nende jaoks ettenähtud üldkasutatavatele trafodele Safety of transformers, reactors, power supply units and combinations thereof - Part 2-16: Particular requirements and tests for switch mode power supply units and transformers for switch mode power supply units for general applications Newest version Valid from 01.04.2025	English	26.84 € incl tax 26.84 € incl tax View / Buy Preview
NEW Main	EVS-EN IEC 61558-2-4:2025 Trafode, reaktorite, elektritoiteplokkide ja nende kombinatsioonide ohutus. Osa 2-4: Erinõuded ja katsesused kaitseseeraldustrafodele ja üldkasutatavale kaitseseeraldustrafosid sisaldavatele toiteplokkidele Safety of transformers, reactors, power supply units and combinations thereof - Part 2-4: Particular requirements and tests for isolating transformers and power supply units incorporating isolating transformers for general applications Newest version Valid from 01.04.2025	English	15.86 € incl tax 15.86 € incl tax View / Buy Preview
NEW Main	EVS-EN IEC 61558-2-6:2025 Trafode, reaktorite, elektritoiteplokkide ja nende kombinatsioonide ohutus. Osa 2-6: Erinõuded ja katsesused kaitseseeraldustrafodele ja üldkasutatavale kaitseseeraldustrafosid sisaldavatele toiteplokkidele.	English	15.86 € incl tax 15.86 € incl tax View / Buy Preview

4. In the chose ICS group scroll to **47 Shipbuilding and Marine Structures**

The screenshot shows the EVS website search results for 'Shipbuilding and Marine Structures'. The search bar on the left contains '47 - Shipbuilding and marine structures'. The search results table lists four standards:

Type	Name	Language	Format
Amendment	EVS-EN ISO 15083:2020/A11:2023 Väikeleavad. Püsi pumbasüsteemid Small craft - Bilge-pumping systems Valid from 17.07.2023	English Estonian	8.54 € incl tax 8.54 € incl tax View / Buy
Main + amendment	EVS-EN ISO 15083:2020+A1+A11:2023 Väikeleavad. Püsi pumbasüsteemid Small craft - Bilge-pumping systems (ISO 15083:2020 + ISO 15083:2020/Amd 1:2022) Newest version Valid from 17.07.2023	English Estonian	19.52 € incl tax 19.52 € incl tax View / Buy Preview
Amendment	EVS-EN ISO 13297:2021/A11:2023 Väikeleavad. Elektrisüsteemid. Vaheiduv- ja alalisvoolugaigaldised Small craft - Electrical systems - Alternating and direct current installations Valid from 02.05.2023	English	8.54 € incl tax 8.54 € incl tax View / Buy
Main + amendment	EVS-EN ISO 13297:2021+A1+A11:2023 Väikeleavad. Elektrisüsteemid. Vaheiduv- ja alalisvoolugaigaldised Small craft - Electrical systems - Alternating and direct current installations (ISO 13297:2020 + ISO	English	26.84 € incl tax 26.84 € incl tax View / Buy Preview

5. You will see a list of RCD Standards

Type	Name	Language	Format
Amendment	EVS-EN ISO 15083:2020/A11:2023 Vaikelaevad. Pilsipumbasüsteemid Small craft - Bilge-pumping systems Valid from 17.07.2023	English Estonian	8.54 € incl tax 8.54 € incl tax View / Buy
Main + amendment	EVS-EN ISO 15083:2020+A1+A11:2023 Vaikelaevad. Pilsipumbasüsteemid Small craft - Bilge-pumping systems (ISO 15083:2020 + ISO 15083:2020/Amd 1:2022) Newest version Valid from 17.07.2023	English Estonian	19.52 € incl tax 19.52 € incl tax View / Buy Preview
Amendment	EVS-EN ISO 13297:2021/A11:2023 Vaikelaevad. Elektrisüsteemid. Vahelduv- ja alalisvoolupaigaldised Small craft - Electrical systems - Alternating and direct current installations Valid from 02.05.2023	English	8.54 € incl tax 8.54 € incl tax View / Buy
Main + amendment	EVS-EN ISO 13297:2021+A1+A11:2023 Vaikelaevad. Elektrisüsteemid. Vahelduv- ja alalisvoolupaigaldised Small craft - Electrical systems - Alternating and direct current installations (ISO 13297:2021 + ISO 13297:2021/Amd 1:2022)	English	26.84 € incl tax 26.84 € incl tax View / Buy Preview

7. Pick the standard you wish to view; alternatively you can type the standard number in the search box.

Type	Name	Language	Format
Main	EVS-EN ISO 12217-1:2017 Vaikelaevad. Stabiilsuse ja ujuvuse hindamine ja klassifitseerimine. Osa 1. Mitte purjelaevad, mille kere pikkus on 6 meetrit või rohkem Small craft - Stability and buoyancy assessment and categorization - Part 1: Non-sailing boats of hull length greater than or equal to 6 m (ISO 12217-1:2015) Newest version Valid from 16.10.2017	English Estonian	39.04 € incl tax 39.04 € incl tax View / Buy Preview
Main	EVS-EN ISO 12217-2:2017 Vaikelaevad. Stabiilsuse ja ujuvuse hindamine ja klassifitseerimine. Osa 2. Purjelaevad, mille kere pikkus on 6 meetrit või rohkem Small craft - Stability and buoyancy assessment and categorization - Part 2: Sailing boats of hull length greater than or equal to 6 m (ISO 12217-2:2015) Newest version Valid from 16.10.2017	English Estonian	39.04 € incl tax 39.04 € incl tax View / Buy Preview
Main	EVS-EN ISO 12217-3:2017 Vaikelaevad. Stabiilsuse ja ujuvuse hindamine ja klassifitseerimine. Osa 3. Laevad, mille kere pikkus on väiksem kui 6 m Small craft - Stability and buoyancy assessment and categorization - Part 3: Boats of hull length less than 6 m (ISO 12217-3:2015) Newest version Valid from 16.10.2017	English Estonian	39.04 € incl tax 39.04 € incl tax View / Buy Preview

8. At this point you can choose to preview the introductory text from Language drop down menu and once you are happy you have selected the correct standard by clicking the view/buy button you will be taken to the pricing page which also show the scope:

EVS ESTI STANDARDID JA AKREDITEERIMISEKESKUS
ESTONIAN CENTRE FOR STANDARDIZATION AND ACCREDITATION

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EVS-EN ISO 12217-1:2017

Small craft - Stability and buoyancy assessment and categorization - Part 1: Non-sailing boats of hull length greater than or equal to 6 m (ISO 12217-1:2015)

Valid from 16.10.2017

Base Documents
ISO 12217-1:2015, EN ISO 12217-1:2017

ICS Groups
47.090 Small craft

Directives or regulations
2013/53/EU Recreational craft and personal watercraft

Status	Date	Type	Name
		Main	prEN ISO 12217-1
	16.10.2017	Main	EVS-EN ISO 12217-1:2017
	03.12.2015	Main	EVS-EN ISO 12217-1:2015

PDF 39.04 € incl tax

Paper 39.04 € incl tax

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[Browse PDF](#)

Standard monitoring

[Add to monitoring](#)

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Scope [Give feedback](#)

This part of ISO 12217 specifies methods for evaluating the stability and buoyancy of inboard (i.e.

9. You will then be asked to pay and will subsequently have access to the standard for 24 hours

Standard choices

Required fields are indicated with *

Time *

24 hours 30 minutes

Language *

English Estonian

Please enter your address *

Price: 3.60 € incl tax

[Add to cart](#)

Monthly Access

There are two organisations that provide monthly access to standards.

The RYA

The RYA standards sets are licensed through British Standards and are able to provide monthly and annual online access to the relevant standards.

The standards available will be kept up to date with those currently recognised as Designated Standards by the Department for Business and Trade (DBT)

To view details of the standards and to purchase a subscription please visit the Technical Standards Access page in the RYA Web Shop [here](#).

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[Communications \(9\)](#)
[Diary and Calendar \(1\)](#)
[Dinghy Sailing \(18\)](#)

RCD Standards: All Standards Monthly Subscription RCD-A1

RCD Standards: All Standards Annual Subscription RCD-A12

Product Description

Please read the [RYA eBooks: How to Guide](#) and download a Taster before buying an eBook.

This 1-month subscription includes online access to 65 harmonised standards for the Recreational Craft Directive (RCD II 2013/53/EU).

The standards available will be kept up to date with those currently recognised as Harmonised Standards by the Official Journal of the European Union for RCD II 2013/53/EU and therefore may not include the latest revision of the ISO standards where these have not yet been harmonised by the EU.

Monthly subscribers will be able to view the standards (not download) through the RYA Books app.

Please note: this subscription grants single-user access to the standards.

Standards included:

- BS EN ISO 6185-1:2018
- BS EN ISO 6185-2:2018
- BS EN ISO 6185-3:2018
- BS EN ISO 6185-4:2018
- BS EN ISO 7840:2021
- BS EN ISO 8099-1:2018
- BS EN ISO 8099-2:2021
- BS EN ISO 8469:2021
- BS EN ISO 8665:2017
- BS EN ISO 8666:2020
- BS EN ISO 8846:2017
- BS EN ISO 8847:2021

Rulefinder

Rulefinder is licensed through British Standards and therefore you are contributing to the UK development of the standards.

Rulefinder has a number of different packages depending on the type of system or vessel they are required for and catalogues and cross references the standards, it also aligns them with the UK Maritime and Coastguard SCV codes of practise providing a resource for Certifying Authorities and commercial boat builders. Access can be purchased for 1 month or 1 year access. [Rulefinder – Get Access](#)

Marine Packages



CE and UKCA

Below will find the perfect package to meet your needs.

The most popular package is the RCD/RCR (Recreational Craft Directive and UKCA Recreational Craft Regulations), Complete Package.

This gives access to 198 Documents, including ISO Standards, the RSG RFU's and the current and previous Directives.

Purchase Access

RCD/RCR Complete Package	€625.00 / Annually	Package Details	PURCHASE
Outboard Engine Powered Craft	€495.00 / Annually	Package Details	PURCHASE
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Large Yachts	€330.00 / Annually	Package Details	PURCHASE
Dinghies <6m and without systems	€270.00 / Annually	Package Details	PURCHASE
Systems and Components	€300.00 / Annually	Package Details	PURCHASE
Hull construction and scantlings - Parts 1 - 4 Materials	€115.00 / Annually	Package Details	PURCHASE
Hull construction and scantlings - ISO 12215 Parts 5 - 10	€225.00 / Annually	Package Details	PURCHASE
MCA Commercial Code	€235.00 / Annually	Package Details	PURCHASE
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Saudi Arabia Technical Regulations For Watercraft			
Saudi Arabia Technical Regulations For Watercraft	€585.00 / Annually	Package Details	PURCHASE

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