



**For Immediate Release
February 22, 2011**

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Anywhere, Anytime: ABYC's Electrical Certification Course Goes CD

February 22, 2011, Annapolis, MD: The American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) announced today that it now offers a self-study CD-based Electrical Certification program for the marine industry's workforce in partnership with Ken Cook Co., an ISO-certified provider of technical publications. This new easy-to-use distance learning course is intended to substantially lower the overall cost for marine technicians to become ABYC certified. Now anyone from any continent with access to a personal computer with CD drive can study for a non-proprietary standards-based technical certification when and where they want. The CD is the next step in an evolutionary approach to distance and internet-based training, education and workforce certifications.

Ken Cook, President and owner of Ken Cook Company said "we are proud to have partnered with ABYC to make this product a reality. This CD based distance learning program offers flexibility in scheduling and, I believe will allow users to review and retain material that can be immediately applied in the workplace as they continue their course of study."

According to ABYC the course was designed for the marine employee with at least 3 years experience working with marine electricity. Although it is an intense academic course, the material presented is a necessity for the safety of the boating public and for marine businesses to mitigate the risks of electrocution, fire, personal injury and possible death aboard boats and on docks.

Skip Burdon, President of ABYC stated “this self-study course makes economic sense for service technicians, boatyards, manufacturers, dealerships and for anyone who is located in remote locations. By learning and studying at their own pace at work or at home, the workforce can now immediately apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills with hands-on-experience as they prepare for the certification exam.”

Students will receive the CD, instructions and a comprehensive graphics-rich and easy to understand study guide. It is recommended that a student dedicate approximately 60 hours to the course in order to successfully meet certification testing requirements. Proctored certification will be made available on a world-wide basis through the coordination with assigned ABYC members.

Ed Sherman, ABYC’s senior instructor with over 30 years of diverse marine and academic experience who is the course moderator and developer stated “this self-paced, interactive course is also an ideal learning vehicle for international companies who are producing boats and electrical products intended for the North American market.”

Burdon added “our members and non-members alike around the world who have technical staff with a comprehension of English have strongly advocated this approach to

ABYC standards certifications. Their engineers, technicians and management understand and appreciate the value of standards and non-proprietary safety training and certification programs which support manufacturer's training." Burdon concluded: "Properly certified and skilled employees improve the end product and help mitigate business risk."

As a special and limited incentive ABYC is offering a 3 month introductory purchase fee of \$485 for the CD Electrical Certification Course. An additional \$225 testing fee will be assessed at the final testing sight. These fees represent a \$200 discount in addition to eliminating travel, lodging and meal expenses incurred by attending an on-site class. This distance learning course on CD can be ordered today by contacting Cris Gardner at ABYC, 410-990-4460. It will also available for purchase in the ABYC Ship's Store on their website (www.abycinc.org) starting March 1, 2011.

The American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) is a not-for-profit 501 c(3) organization established in 1954 to develop safety standards for the design, construction, maintenance and repair of marine craft and has evolved into a world recognized viable alternative to mandatory government regulation of the marine industry. ABYC is also actively involved with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in developing marine standards and is the global leader in delivering technical education, training and accredited marine workforce certifications in nine professional disciplines. ABYC is committed to educating the marine industry and consumers about the benefits of using ABYC certified marine professionals to ensure that safety is a priority in the building, maintenance, repair and surveying of boats. Membership and general information can be obtained at www.abycinc.org or by calling 410-990-4460.

Ken Cook Co. is a single-source provider of product information and training programs for manufacturers and businesses. Their services include concept formation and design, technical writing, illustrations and translation as well as web development, e-commerce application and CD, DVD and video replication. General information can be obtained at www.kencook.com or by calling 414-466-6060.

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