

Meeting Report
Galvanic Isolators Project Technical Committee
Baltimore, Maryland
May 1-2, 2007

The Galvanic Isolator subcommittee was reconstituted as a full PTC by the ABYC Technical Committee. The membership of the PTC includes members of the Electrical PTC along with isolator manufacturers, surveyors, boat builders and boat owners.

ABYC A-28, Galvanic Isolators

1. This meeting was held to resolve the 55 comments pending and to resolve the questions left from the failed consensus ballot held last August.
2. The PTC discussed the need for all components in the isolator to be selected to follow the short circuit tests of Table 1. The PTC determined that for all electrical tests, all galvanic isolator components shall be used within the component manufacturers' specified ratings. (Exception is for the fail safe test)
3. Status alarms will not be provided with a means to disable the audible alarm for more than 5 minutes before resounding as long as the alarm condition continues to exist.
4. The revised standard will define the water resistance of the status monitor. (IP 64 or NEMA 4x rating)
5. Galvanic isolators and their status monitors located in spaces requiring an ignition protection design in E-11 shall be rated and marked as ignition protection.
6. Galvanic isolators and their status monitors shall have a minimum rating of 50°C when ignition protected or intended for installation in machinery spaces.
7. The PTC determined that a single candidate isolator shall be used through the test sequence for vibration, shock, temperature and short circuit.
8. The fail-safe test (only) will be conducted on five units.
9. A fail-safe device shall have a caution label that says that in a lightning strike, the device may not provide galvanic isolation but may only provide a ground fault current path. This label will be on the device and in the owners manual.
10. A number of editorial changes were accepted.
11. Next Action: Ballot the GI PTC vote and then a 45 day public review, including an Electrical PTC review. Potential that this standard will be on the street in August but have an official publish date of July 2008.
12. Next meeting / conference call: At the call of the chair after the public review.

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