

NFPA®

303

Fire Protection Standard for
Marinas and Boatyards

2021



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NFPA® 303

Fire Protection Standard for

Marinas and Boatyards

2021 Edition

This edition of NFPA 303, *Fire Protection Standard for Marinas and Boatyards*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Marinas and Boatyards. It was issued by the Standards Council on March 15, 2020, with an effective date of April 4, 2020, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 303 was approved as an American National Standard on April 4, 2020.

Origin and Development of NFPA 303

This first standard on the subject of marinas and boatyards was adopted by NFPA in 1940 on the recommendation of the Committee on Boat Basins and Municipal Marinas of the then NFPA Marine Section. The following year, the scope of the recommendations was enlarged to include boat service and storage yards. Minor amendments were adopted in 1951, 1952, and 1957. A revised edition was produced in 1960 by the Committee on Motor Craft and Marinas.

In 1961, the Sectional Committee on Marinas and Boatyards was established to deal exclusively with these matters. A complete revision of NFPA 303 was developed and adopted in 1963, amendments to which were adopted in 1966, 1969, 1975, and 1984. In 1986, a complete revision of NFPA 303 was adopted; it incorporated boat condominiums and multiple berthing facilities and provided updated electrical and fire protection requirements. Subsequent revisions to the standard were made in the 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2006 editions.

In 2011, the committee made changes to the requirements for automatic sprinkler protection in buildings with multilevel boat rack storage arrangements to conform with a revision in the 2010 edition of NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*. A new requirement for posting emergency contact information at marinas and boatyards was added to that edition of NFPA 303, as well as guidance for reducing electric shock hazards and the use of corrosion-resistant materials in certain fixed extinguishing systems.

The 2016 edition of NFPA 303 included revisions for inspection, testing, and maintenance of firefighting equipment and mandated that a marina or boatyard prefire plan be submitted to the AHJ annually for approval. This edition of the standard added requirements to address fire hazards caused by portable cooking equipment and portable electric heaters on boats in marinas and boatyards.

The committee addressed the technical aspects of electric shock drowning (ESD) and added a requirement to conduct an inspection of ground-fault protection devices at regular intervals (at least annually) and to correct any deficiencies found.

The 2021 edition further addresses electrical hazards. Most boat owners are unaware that dangerous ground-fault leakages can occur on their vessels. The standard now states that all vessels shall be tested for the presence of ac ground faults at the time of the initial connection to a marina electrical system that has not been constructed in accordance with the shore-power ground-fault requirements of Article 555 of NFPA 70®, *National Electrical Code*®. Vessels shall not be permitted to connect to the marina system if they display ground-fault leakage exceeding 30 mA. These requirements shall apply retroactively to all marinas within 2 years of adoption of this edition of the standard. The requirement for receptacle configurations of less than 30 amperes and no more than 50 amperes has been revised to require these devices to be of a locking and grounding type that is listed and labeled.