

**From:** Denis\_Victor  
**To:** Furukawa Robert; Sealite\_UK  
**Cc:** Parker\_Anthony  
**Subject:** RE: Are there any manufacturer specifications/requirements for mooring buoys?  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 12:45:16 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Dear Robert,  
Requirements for mooring buoys are normally set by naval engineers , so I suggest that you touch base with whoever designed the mooring or alternative with a Naval engineer with expertise on the matter.  
Best regards,

**Victor Denis**  
SPX Aids to Navigation



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**From:** Furukawa Robert <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** lunes, 13 de diciembre de 2021 20:32  
**To:** Sealite\_UK <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Denis, Victor <[REDACTED]> Parker, Anthony <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** FW: Are there any manufacturer specifications/requirements for mooring buoys?  
**Importance:** High

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Victor,

Forwarded to [REDACTED]

**Are there any manufacturer specifications/requirements for mooring buoys?**

**From:** [Craig Scholten](#)  
**To:** [Furukawa Robert](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ABYC Standards - Mooring Buoys?  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 12:40:47 PM

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Hello Jon –

All is well here and with the crew at ABYC, thanks.

Sorry, no – ABYC does not have standards for mooring buoys.  
I am not aware of standards from any organization on mooring buoys.

Regards,  
Craig

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**From:** Furukawa Robert [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 12:29 PM  
**To:** Craig Scholten < [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** ABYC Standards - Mooring Buoys?

Hey Craig,

I hope your Dec is going well.

### Does ABYC have standards for mooring buoys?

- I have an accident during a storm in Alaska for a catastrophic failure of 58” steel mooring buoy which resulted in a grounding.
- The mooring buoy supplier won’t return my or the USCG investigator’s queries. The USCG NavAids and USACE don’t have standards for commercial mooring buoys.
- Apparently its up to the “naval engineer” who designs it.

Cheers,  
Jon

Best regards,

R. Jon Furukawa  Safety Investigator  [NTSB Marine Accident Reports](#)  [REDACTED] 

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] [.CIV](#)  
**To:** [Furukawa Robert](#)  
**Subject:** ACOE INFO FOR SM-3 - Grounding (DCA20FM027)  
**Date:** Monday, May 24, 2021 6:38:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [Eng Form 4345 2019Feb.pdf](#)

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Jon

I spoke with a rep from ACOE. The Anchorage District Office handles Nushagak Bay. I spoke to Jason Brewer [REDACTED]

Essentially, I was told that a permit is required to be issued for mooring buoys. Initially he said under the National General Permit which is for private use. Then corrected himself to say a commercial user should file Form 4345 with the ACOE. There is no technical review, the corps just makes sure there is no hazard to navigation. They might look at chain scope, but don't specify what is or is not acceptable. There is a regulation for non-compliance, but like any government agency, it's discretionary. The likely first-time offender would be identified, then required to submit application. A permit is good for 5 years unless revoked. He was not aware of any permits issued for Nushagak Bay. So there's likely multiple violators.

We didn't get into details of what defines private and commercial. Both require a permit, neither require technical or design review.

The whole process come from Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899

I attached Form 4345

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
Senior Investigating Officer  
Sector Anchorage  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** [Furukawa Robert](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Materials Laboratory Analysis Report - Published to Ekuk Beach AK Docket - SM-3 - Grounding (DCA20FM027)  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 5:18:14 PM

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Jon

MSC doesn't have anything to do with buoys.

I emailed the Office of Navigation Standards,, who contacted the Aids to Navigation Division at CG HQ. I was told the Shore Infrastructure Logistics Center managing the Waterways Operations Production Line is the engineering and technical support office. There are technical guidelines and drawings for USCG installed and maintained buoys. The CG does not have guidance for private aids such as mooring buoys.

I'll try ACOE next.

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Furukawa Robert <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 7:04 AM  
To: Kramer Donald <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] CIV <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Materials Laboratory Analysis Report - Published to Ekuk Beach AK Docket - SM-3 - Grounding (DCA20FM027)

[REDACTED] Don,

The crew was lucky that the barge grounded on the sandy beach and we aren't doing an investigation with injuries/fatalities.

I don't remember if we asked the company or what they said, why they selected the 58" mooring buoy.

I don't think there are any manufacturer specifications/requirements for mooring buoys - should there be?

[REDACTED] besides asking the Army Corps of Engineers about nav buoys, can you send an RFI to the Marine Safety Center if they know anything about mooring buoy specifications?

20/20 hindsight/Captain Obvious: the Coast Pilot says there are severe storms up there even during the summer, so if the company had a built a fish processing vessel, instead of a barge, there would not have been an accident.

Best regards,

R. Jon Furukawa Safety Investigator NTSB Marine Accident Reports [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Kramer Donald <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 10:01 AM  
To: Furukawa Robert <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] CIV <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: RE: Materials Laboratory Analysis Report - Published to Ekuk Beach AK Docket - SM-3 - Grounding (DCA20FM027)

Jon, [REDACTED]