



National Marine Electronics Association

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NMEA 2000® approved by The IEC

The National Marine Electronic Association's NMEA 2000® Standard for Serial Data Networking of Marine Electronic Devices has been approved by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

The IEC, more than 100 years old, is the world's leading organization that prepares and publishes international standards for electrical, electronic and related technologies across a wide range of industries including marine. The IEC has approved the NMEA 2000® Standard as a versatile and economic means of connecting a wide range of marine navigation and radio communications equipment aboard all classes of vessels including SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) vessels.

The SOLAS Convention is generally regarded as the most important of all international treaties concerning the safety of merchant ships. Adopted in 1965, it was the first major task for the International Maritime Organization (IMO) after the Organization's creation and it represented a considerable step forward in modernizing regulations and keeping pace with technical developments in the shipping industry.

NMEA and the IEC TC (Technical Committee) 80 Working Group 6 worked collaboratively to ensure that NMEA 2000® would fully support SOLAS applications including redundancy.

The IEC now lists the NMEA 2000® standard on its website under the designation, IEC 61162-3, and it may be accessed through the link:

http://www.iec.ch/online_news/justpub/jp_2008/jp.htm#61162-3

“NMEA and IEC succeeded in bringing the CAN technology that NMEA 2000® is built upon and enhanced its foundation for the SOLAS market,” said Steve Spitzer, NMEA’s Technical Director. “This allows vessels of all classes worldwide to know that NMEA 2000® meets the global safety requirements for the international marketplace. NMEA is proud to have worked with the volunteers on the IEC TC 80 Working Group 6 on this project.”

In its introduction of the NMEA 2000® standard, the IEC noted that, “the need for an improved standard...has arisen due to the increased complexity of the latest equipment and systems. This requires multiple links between equipment and greatly improved communication speed.”

The IEC further noted that the NMEA 2000® standard:

--is a low cost, moderate capacity, bi-directional multi-transmitter/multi receiver instrument network to interconnect marine electronic equipment. The connectors and cables used are compatible with industrial bus systems.

--adopts the controller area network (CAN) technology, already well established for many industrial systems. This permits a versatile system to be established with a minimum of effort and reasonable cost.

The IEC 61162-3 designate explains the differences necessary for SOLAS classified vessels applications of NMEA 2000®. The complete NMEA 2000® standard is published and sold by the National Marine Electronics Association. To purchase the standard, go to www.NMEA.org and click on “Publications/Standards”.

For further information, contact Steve Spitzer, NMEA Technical Director at sspitzer@NMEA.org, or you may call him at 425 417-8042.

Founded in 1957, the NMEA has led the way in establishing technical standards for data exchange in marine electronics, with the widely accepted NMEA 0183 data protocol, NMEA 2000® and certification standards for marine electronics technicians. NMEA standards and programs focus on insuring that the boating consumer is provided reliable products and professional service. For more information, visit the NMEA Web site at www.nmea.org or call (410) 975-9425.