

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3303

To amend title 46, United States Code, to require that houseboats that have on board an electric power generator shall be equipped with a carbon monoxide venting system.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 15, 2001

Mr. McINNIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To amend title 46, United States Code, to require that houseboats that have on board an electric power generator shall be equipped with a carbon monoxide venting system.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4       The Congress finds the following:

5               (1) Following the fatalities of 2 young boys on  
6       Lake Powell in August 2000, numerous investiga-  
7       tions and studies have been performed to determine  
8       the potential danger that carbon monoxide poses to

1 houseboat users. The results of an interagency com-  
2 pilation of case reports indicates 22 carbon mon-  
3 oxide-related fatalities and 149 nonfatal cases of  
4 carbon monoxide poisoning on houseboats in United  
5 States waters.

6 (2) A study performed by the National Institute  
7 for Occupational Safety and Health under the Cen-  
8 ters for Disease Control and Prevention and the De-  
9 partment of Health and Human Services, reported  
10 in August 2001, showed that exhausting houseboat  
11 generators through dry stack exhaust configurations  
12 resulted in a reduction in carbon monoxide con-  
13 centrations on houseboats of approximately 99 per-  
14 cent when compared to the rear exhaust configura-  
15 tion. Peak concentrations on the upper deck of a  
16 houseboat exceeded the American Conference of  
17 Governmental Industrial Hygienists excursion limit  
18 of 125 parts per million for the side and rear ex-  
19 haust configurations, but were dramatically lower for  
20 the stack exhaust.

21 (3) When 3 houseboats were tied together, the  
22 dry stack exhaust configuration showed carbon mon-  
23 oxide average concentrations ranging from 6 to 14  
24 parts per million, compared to 104 to 777 parts per  
25 million for side and rear exhaust configurations.

1           (4) Average concentrations provide a solid com-  
2           parison between generator exhaust configurations.  
3           However, peak exposures provide information more  
4           relevant to the important health hazards.

5           (5) When several houseboats were tied together,  
6           and using a combination of rear and side exhaust  
7           ports, peak concentrations of carbon monoxide on  
8           the swim platforms exceeded the National Institute  
9           for Occupational Safety and Health Immediately  
10          Dangerous to Life and Health standard of 1,200  
11          parts per million.

12          (6) The final findings of the August 2001 study  
13          and prior National Institute for Occupational Safety  
14          and Health studies indicate that houseboats retro-  
15          fitted with a generator exhaust stack that extends  
16          well above the upper deck will greatly reduce the  
17          risk of generator-related carbon monoxide poisoning  
18          and possible death to individuals on or near the  
19          houseboat.

20 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT THAT HOUSEBOATS BE EQUIPPED**  
21 **WITH CARBON MONOXIDE VENTING SYSTEM.**

22          (a) REQUIREMENT.—Chapter 45 of title 46, United  
23 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
24 lowing:

1 **“§ 3507. Carbon monoxide venting from houseboats**

2 “(a) A houseboat that has on board an electric power  
3 generator shall be equipped with—

4 “(1) a dry stack system; or

5 “(2) another system to vent carbon monoxide  
6 that has been certified by the Secretary or the Na-  
7 tional Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
8 as being at least as effective as a dry stack system  
9 in reducing the hazard of carbon monoxide exposure  
10 to individuals located on or near the houseboat.

11 “(b) In this section:

12 “(1) The term ‘dry stack system’ means an  
13 electric power generator exhaust stack that extends  
14 at least 9 feet above the highest deck of a vessel.

15 “(2) The term ‘houseboat’ means, as specified  
16 in regulations issued by the Secretary—

17 “(A) a small passenger vessel; and

18 “(B) a recreational vessel described in  
19 paragraph (25)(B) of section 2101 of this  
20 title.”.

21 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by sub-  
22 section (a) shall apply after the expiration of the 180-day  
23 period beginning on the effective date of regulations issued  
24 by the Secretary to implement this section.

1       (c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after  
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
3 shall—

4           (1) issue regulations implementing this section;

5       or

6           (2) report to the Congress regarding why such  
7 regulations have not been issued.

8       (d) SECRETARY DEFINED.—In this section the term  
9 “Secretary” has the meaning given that term by section  
10 2101 of title 46, United States Code.

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