

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3377

To improve the safety of houseboat generator exhaust systems.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 29, 2001

Mr. HAYWORTH (for himself, Mr. MCINNIS, and Mr. SHADEGG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To improve the safety of houseboat generator exhaust systems.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Houseboat Safety Im-
5 provement Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) In studies conducted in June 2001, the Na-
9 tional Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
10 (NIOSH) determined that the open space under a

1 houseboat's swim platform, or area directly around
2 the back of the swim platform, can have carbon
3 monoxide concentrations above the "Immediately
4 Dangerous to Life and Health" level, if the onboard
5 gasoline generator is in operation.

6 (2) Based on the data that the National Insti-
7 tute for Occupational Safety and Health collected,
8 an exhaust stack that extends well above the upper
9 deck of a houseboat appears to be a reliable and
10 cost-effective solution that is capable of dramatically
11 reducing carbon monoxide hazards.

12 (3) The National Institute for Occupational
13 Safety and Health found that while evaluating a sin-
14 gle stationary boat, average carbon monoxide con-
15 centrations on the lower rear deck of the houseboat
16 were reduced by about 99 percent through use of a
17 vertical stack exhaust system, compared with a rear
18 exhaust system.

19 (4) At least 111 carbon monoxide poisonings
20 have occurred between 1990 and 2000 on or near
21 boats on Lake Powell, in Arizona and Utah.

22 **SEC. 3. HOUSEBOAT GENERATOR EXHAUST SAFETY RULES.**

23 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
24 of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, in con-
25 sultation with the National Institute for Occupational

1 Safety and Health, shall prescribe the following rules re-
2 garding houseboat generator exhaust safety:

3 (1) SAFETY STANDARD.—A rule setting a
4 standard for houseboat generator exhaust safety
5 that will ensure that carbon monoxide from such ex-
6 haust is not expelled in a manner that would impair
7 the safety of the occupants of the houseboat or
8 swimmers near and around the houseboat.

9 (2) MANUFACTURE.—A rule requiring a house-
10 boat manufactured after a date specified by the
11 Commandant of the Coast Guard to meet the re-
12 quirements of the safety standard prescribed under
13 paragraph (1).

14 (3) RECALL AND RETROFIT.—A rule requiring
15 the manufacturer of any houseboat that does not
16 comply with the safety standard prescribed under
17 paragraph (1) to issue a recall for any such house-
18 boat in order to retrofit the houseboat so that it is
19 in compliance with that standard. The cost to the
20 houseboat owner must not exceed the actual cost of
21 the retrofit to the manufacturer (or any other per-
22 son performing the retrofit).

23 (4) SAFETY WARNING.—A rule requiring any
24 person who commercially rents a houseboat, and any
25 person who commercially sells a used houseboat, to

1 another person to inform the other person of the po-
2 tential hazards of carbon monoxide poisoning from
3 houseboat generator exhaust, particularly for the oc-
4 cupants of the houseboat or swimmers near and
5 around the houseboat, if the houseboat—

6 (A) was manufactured prior to the date set
7 for the beginning of manufacture of houseboats
8 that comply with the standard issued under
9 paragraph (1), in accordance with the rule pre-
10 scribed under paragraph (2); and

11 (B) has not been retrofitted to comply with
12 the standard issued under paragraph (1).

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