

Submission: **SR27-11**

Offshore Special Regulations – 3.14.2

Mandatory Requirement for Lifeline to be ‘taut’.

A submission from the United States Sailing Association (US SAILING)

Purpose or Objective

To change OSR 3.14.2 a) from a recommendation to a requirement.

Proposal

3.14.2 a) When a deflecting force of 50 N (5.1kgf, 11.2 lbf) is applied to a lifeline midway between supports, the lifeline shall not deflect more than 50mm.

Current Position

~~3.14.2 a) As a guide, when a deflecting force of 50 N (5.1 kgf, 11.2 lbf) is applied to a lifeline midway between supports, the lifeline should not deflect more than 50 mm.~~

Reason

1. Lifelines are widely used as hiking aids, with crews dangling from the middle lifeline. The only limit on the extent to which the crew are suspended over the side is the requirement that the lifelines be “taut” yet the definition of taut is not itself a requirement but is instead just a recommendation.
2. Changing “should” to “shall” and removing the phrase “As a guide” makes OSR 3.14.2 a) a requirement.