

Deferred

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.

Extract from the 2011 Special Regulations Sub-committee minutes

5 (d) OSR 3.14.2 – Mandatory Requirement for Lifeline to be “taut”

Submission SR27-11 was received from US Sailing to change the definition of ‘taut’ from an optional guideline to a mandatory requirement.

RORC Rating presented a paper on tests conducted regarding the tension of a lifeline and the deflection created by loads up to 50N. The paper concluded that few boats comply with the current recommended tension guideline and that to make it mandatory would be impractical.

It was agreed to appoint a working party of Renee Mehl and James Dadd with additional members to review the subject.

On a proposal by Patrick Lindqvist, seconded by Sten Edholm the submission was unanimously deferred.

Recommendation to the Oceanic and Offshore Committee: Defer

Oceanic and Offshore Committee Decision: Defer