

REPORTING COMMITTEE - OFFSHORE

OTHER COMMITTEE -

Offshore Special Regulations

Safety Harness and Safety Lines (Tethers)

A submission from the Federazione Italiana Vela

PROPOSAL:

That the requirement for safety harnesses, at least for 50% of the crew, be extended to Category 4 races.

CURRENT POSITION:

5.02 Safety harness and safety lines (tethers)

5.02.1 Each crew member shall have a safety harness, and safety line not more than 2m long with a snap hook at each end [MoMu0, 1, 2, 3]

a) Warning it is possible for a plain snap hook to disengage from a U-bolt if the hook is rotated under load at right-angles to the axis of the U-bolt. For this reason the use of snap hooks with positive locking devices is strongly recommended [MoMu0, 1, 2, 3]

5.02.2 At least 30% of the crew shall each, in addition to the above, be provided with either: - [MoMu0, 1, 2, 3]

a) A safety line not more than 1m long, or [MoMu0, 1, 2, 3]

b) A mid-point snap hook on an existing 2m safety line [MoMu0, 1, 2, 3]

5.02.3 A safety line purchased in 1/01 or later shall have a coloured flag embedded in the stitching, to indicate an overload. A line which has been overloaded shall be replaced as a matter of urgency. [MoMu0, 1, 2, 3]

5.02.4 A crew member's harness and lifejacket shall be compatible [MoMu0, 1, 2, 3]

5.02.5 It is strongly recommended that: [MoMu0, 1, 2, 3]

a) A harness and safety line should comply with EN 1095 (ISO 12401) or near equivalent [MoMu0, 1, 2, 3]

b) Static safety lines should be securely fastened at work stations [MoMu0, 1, 2, 3]

c) A harness should be fitted with a crotch strap or thigh straps [MoMu0, 1, 2, 3]

d) To draw attention to wear and damage, stitching on harness and safety lines should be of a colour contrasting strongly with the surrounding material [MoMu0, 1, 2, 3]

e) snap hooks should be of a type which will not self-release from a U-bolt (5.02.1 (a)) and which can be easily released under load (crew members are reminded that a personal knife may free them from a safety line in emergency) [MoMu0,1,2,3]

f) A crew member before a race should adjust a harness to fit then retain that harness for the duration of the race [MoMu0, 1, 2, 3]

REASON:

Although Category 4 races are, by definition, short races close to shore in fairly warm or protected waters and normally held in daylight, it cannot be excluded that a sudden worsening of the weather may force sail changes or other operations on deck which would be done in uncomfortable and dangerous conditions, especially if in fairly heavy seas and in darkness if not properly wearing a safety harness.

The requirement of a safety harness for each member of the crew might be too much for category 4 races. However, it is felt that at least 50% of the crew should have personal equipment available in the event it might be needed.