

International Etchells Class Association – Class Rules Interpretation

The following Class Rules Interpretations have been approved to be effective 10/03/2021 in accordance with World Sailing Regulation 10.12

Relevant Class Rules

Section A – General

(...)

A.12 INITIAL HULL CERTIFICATION

A.12.1 For a **certificate** to be issued to a hull not previously **certified**:

- (a) **Certification control** shall be carried out by the **official measurer** who shall complete the appropriate documentation.
- (b) The documentation and **certification** fee, if required, shall be sent to the **certification authority**.

(...)

Section B – Boat Eligibility

For a **boat** to be eligible for racing, it shall comply with the rules in this section.

B.1 CLASS RULES AND CERTIFICATION

B.1.1 The boat shall:

- (a) be in compliance with the **class rules**.
- (b) have a valid hull **certificate**.

(...)

PART II – REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

(...)

The rules in Part II are **closed class rules**. **Certification control** and **equipment inspection** shall be carried out in accordance with the ERS except where varied in this Part.

Section C – Conditions for Racing

C.1 GENERAL

C.1.1 RULES

(...)

- (b) The ERS Part I – Use of Equipment shall apply.

(...)

Section D – Hull

(...)

D.2 GENERAL

D.2.1 RULES

- (a) The **hull** shall comply with the **class rules** in force at the time of initial **certification**.

D.2.2 CERTIFICATION

(...)

(b) The builder shall sign the measurement form stating that the hull and hull appendages are built in accordance with the rules, plans and specifications of the IECA.

(...)

D.2.6 BUILDERS

(a) The hull shall be built by a builder licensed by ISAF. Applications for building licenses shall be made to ISAF and the premises shall be inspected by Lloyds Register of Shipping or a similar classification society.

(b) All moulds shall be constructed by builders licensed for that purpose and approved by ISAF. All moulds shall be numbered.

(c) Any assembly moulds or construction jigs shall be approved by ISAF.

(...)

D.3.2 CONSTRUCTION

(a) The construction shall be in accordance with the ISAF agreed builder's specification.

(...)

D.3.3 MEASUREMENT

(a) The shape of the **hull** shall be controlled by the application of ISAF approved templates.

(b) The clearance between hull and template shall be as per D.10.2. The **sheerline** shall lie between the measurement marks scribed on the templates.

In addition, the ERS:

PART 1 – USE OF EQUIPMENT

(...)

Section A – During an Event

(...)

A.2 CERTIFICATE

A.2.1 Having a Certificate

The **boat** shall have such valid **certificate** as required by its **class rules** or the **certification authority**.

A.2.2 Compliance with a Certificate

The **boat** shall comply with its **certificate**.

(...)

PART 2 – DEFINITIONS

Section C – General Definitions

(...)

C.2.2 Closed Class Rules

Class rules where anything not specifically permitted by the **class rules** is prohibited.

Questions:

1. Do the IECA class rules require World Sailing's approval of moulds?
2. If a boat has a hull certificate, does it render it eligible to compete, built in compliance with the class rules and all other requirements?
3. If a boat is measured to be within the measurements included in the class rules, does it render it eligible to compete, built in compliance with the class rules and all other requirements?

Interpretations:

Regarding Q1:

Class rule D.2.6 (a) requires builders to be licensed by World Sailing.

Additional requirements beyond those included in the class rules are defined in the licensing agreements between World Sailing and the manufacturers. If the licensing agreement requires moulds to be approved by World Sailing, then to be considered a builder licensed by World Sailing the terms of the licensing agreement shall be met.

Class rule D.2.6(b) could be interpreted in two ways: (1) requiring builders to be approved by World Sailing, or, (2) requiring moulds to be approved by World Sailing.

However, it is understood that D.2.6 (a) addresses hull builders and D.2.6 (b) addresses the moulds. Therefore the dual interpretation must not be considered. Furthermore, the Introduction of the class rules reads: "Etchells hulls, hull appendages and rigs shall only be manufactured by ISAF approved builders – in the class rules referred to as licensed builders."

Licensed builders are by definition approved by World Sailing. The requirement for approval by World Sailing in this rule is understood as a requirement for the moulds.

- **To the question: Do the IECA class rules require World Sailing's approval of moulds? The class rule interpretation determines the answer is 'Yes.'**

Regarding Q2:

Section B of the class rules determine the rules that boats shall comply with to be eligible for racing. Class rule B.1.1 (a) requires boats to be in compliance with the class rules and class rule B.1.1 (b) requires boats to have a valid hull certificate.

The Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) which apply (as noted in class rule C.1.1(b)) require boats to comply with their certificate (see ERS A.2.2).

Class Rule D.2.1(a) requires hulls to comply with the class rules in force at the time of initial certification.

A certificate is therefore a necessary but insufficient condition for eligibility. The boat must have a hull certificate, the certificate must be valid, the boat must comply with the class rules in force at the time of initial certification and the boat must be in compliance with the current class rules.

The hull certificate is a requirement set out in the class rules but does not constitute proof of compliance with class rules.

Class rule interpretation – IECA

Effective date: 10/03/2021



Class rule D.2.2(b) requires the builder to sign the measurement form stating that the hull and hull appendages are built in accordance with the rules, plans and specifications of the IECA. The measurement form is part of the documentation required by class rule A.12.1(a) and (b) for a certificate to be issued.

The IECA hull measurement form includes a number of builder declarations that among other state:

-the yacht shall be built from officially registered, numbered and measured mould supplied from the source approved by the ISAF

-the yacht shall be constructed in accordance with the Rules, Plans and Specifications of the IECA

A note at the end of the class rules reads:

“Class plans shall form, as necessary a part of the builders specifications only. The class plans are not included in the class rules and measurement procedures as it is difficult for a measurer to know what he/she should check or not – what is advice and what are rules”.

Official measurers and the certification authority rely therefore on the declarations from the builder in the measurement forms to be satisfied that boats are built in compliance with the building specifications.

If the statements are not veridic then the certificates have been issued under false pretext.

- **To the question: If a boat has a hull certificate, does it render it eligible to compete? The class rule interpretation determines the answer is ‘ No.’**
- **To the question: If a boat has a hull certificate, does it render it built in compliance with the class rules and all other requirements? The class rule interpretation determines the answer is ‘ No.’**

Regarding Q3:

Compliance with the class rules which include measurements is not sufficient to deem the hulls compliant with all class rule requirements.

The IECA class rules rely on the control of the origin and approval of moulds and the declarations from the builder to control compliance with the building specifications.

The requirements in class rule D.3.3 cannot be isolated from the other requirements and would constitute a necessary but insufficient condition.

- **If a boat is measured to be within the measurements included in the class rules, does it render it eligible to compete? The class rule interpretation determines the answer is ‘ No.’**
- **If a boat is measured to be within the measurements included in the class rules, is it built in compliance with the class rules and all other requirements? The class rule interpretation determines the answer is ‘ No.’**