

Submission: **SR03-21**

Offshore Special Regulations

OSR 3.11 Sheet Winches

A submission from the French Sailing Federation (FFVoile)

Purpose or Objective

To update the requirements of the OSRs with the evolution of boats designs

Proposal

Amend OSR 3.11: to read:

3.11 Sheet Winches

**** 3.11 When sheet winches are mounted in such a way that an operator is required to be substantially below the deck, an escape hatch complying with OSR 3.06.2 in the cockpit shall be installed.**

Current Position

**** 3.11** Sheet winches mounted in such a way that an operator is not required to be substantially below deck

Reasons

This OSR may have been written when, in the '80s, crews were starting to work and hike below the deck

- At that time, there were no requirements about the escape hatches under the water level.
- Following the innovations in IMOCA led by Hugo Boss, the boats recently built or under construction have cockpits which are much more protected and lowered – some have even almost disappeared...
- As everything has been investigated underwater to improve the rudders, keel, hull and foils, decreasing the aerodynamic resistance and the aerodynamic plate effect is now the key to improve the speed.
- These boats now need to stop to manoeuvre outside because the AWS is too strong (up to 50/60kts), and because of danger when flying

As a result, the working stations are lowered and are no longer complying with OSR 3.11 requirements

- But it is also an improvement about safety
- The crew is more protected against the weather
- In case of capsize, the crew is not projected overboard (or in case of fire or flooding), if trapped inside, can escape through the hatches described in OSR 3.06.2