Offshore Special Regulation 4.21

Distress Signalling Bag

A submission from the Chairman of the Special Regulation Subcommittee

Proposal

4.21 Grab Bags

4.21.1 Distress Signalling Bag for Multihulls without Liferafts and Monohulls with moveable ballast

A multihull without a liferaft shall have, readily accessible whether or not the yacht is inverted, either a watertight compartment or a grab bag with the following minimum contents.

A monohull with moveable ballast shall have readily accessible whether or not the yacht is inverted, either a watertight compartment or a grab bag with the following minimum contents:

a) The grab bag or container shall have inherent flotation, at least 0.1 m^2 area of fluorescent orange colour on the outside, shall be marked with the name of the yacht, and shall have a lanyard and clip.

b) A watertight hand-held marine VHF transceiver plus a spare set of batteries

c) A watertight flashlight with spare batteries and bulb

d) 2 red parachute and 3 red hand flares

e) 1 red parachute and 1 red hand flares

f) A knife

e) A watertight strobe light with spare batteries

f) It is strongly recommended an EPIRB is carried

g) An additional 406 MHz EPIRB to that required in OSR 4.19

h) A 406 MHz EPIRB

i) Heaving Line

j) Note: it is not intended to duplicate in a grab bag etc. items required by other OSRs to be on board the yacht - this regulation covers only the stowage of those items

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4.21 Grab Bags

4.21.1 Grab Bag or Emergency Container for Multihulls Without Liferafts

a) A multihull without a liferaft shall have, readily accessible whether or not the yacht is inverted, either a watertight compartment or a grab bag with the following minimum contents. A grab bag shall have inherent flotation, at least 0.1 m² area of fluorescent orange colour on the outside, shall be marked with the name of the yacht, and shall have a lanyard and clip.

b) Note: it is not intended to duplicate in a grab bag etc. items required by other OSRs to be on board the yacht - this regulation covers only the stowage of those items.

c) a watertight hand-held marine VHF transceiver plus a spare set of batteries

d) a watertight flashlight with spare batteries and bulb

e) 2 red parachute and 3 red hand flares

f) a watertight strobe light with spare batteries

g) a knife

Reason

The Rambler crew were unable to raise their distress to passing boats. Initially proposals were based on making the liferaft grab bag readily available. However while this is the ideal solution there are practical considerations. For this reason the proposal above specifically deals with raising distress. It also covers category 3.