**Offshore Special Regulations**

OSR 3.27 Navigation Lights

A submission from the Chairman

**Purpose or Objective**

To align more fully with COLREGS and its requirements

**Proposal**

Amend the regulation as follows:

3.27 Navigation Lights

** 3.27.1 that conform to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (Part C and Technical Annex I) and shall be exhibited as required by those regulations.

** 3.27.2 mounted above sheerline and so that they will not be masked by sails or the heeling of the boat

** 3.27.2a) having light intensity meeting COLREGS. When incandescent bulbs are used the minimum power rating shall be:

** 3.27.2b) For LH less than 12 m (39'-4'”), 10 W

** 3.27.2c) For LH 12 m (39'-4'”) and greater, 25 W

MoMu0,1,2,3 3.27.3 reserve lights having the same specifications as above, and that can be powered independently

** 3.27.4 spare bulbs (not required for LED)

**Current Position**

3.27 Navigation Lights

** 3.27.1 mounted above sheerline and so that they will not be masked by sails or the heeling of the boat

** 3.27.2 having light intensity meeting COLREGS. When incandescent bulbs are used the minimum power rating shall be:

** 3.27.2a) For LH less than 12 m (39'-4'”), 10 W

** 3.27.2b) For LH 12 m (39'-4'”) and greater, 25 W

MoMu0,1,2,3 3.27.3 reserve lights having the same specifications as above, and that can be powered independently

** 3.27.4 spare bulbs (not required for LED)

**Reasons**


49. The OSR provides a minimum power rating for incandescent bulbs in hull lengths
of less than and more than 12m, presumably, to satisfy the minimum range requirement. The OSR does not make any allowance for the increased visibility required for the masthead lights of vessels over 12m and over 20m in length. The wattage requirement steps from 10 watts (W) to 25W and it may be that the higher powered light meets the longest minimum range requirement of 5 miles. 

50. Modern light emitting diodes (LEDs) can achieve the required ranges with a lower wattage. Defining range by wattage is no longer useful.

OSR linkage with COLREGS 
(Paragraph 21-23, 49-50) 
Amend OSR 3.27 to align more fully with COLREGS and its requirements by including: ‘Lights shall be carried that conform to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (Part C and Technical Annex I) and shall be exhibited as required by those regulations.’, allowing a grace period of three years. Delete 3.27.2 completely and its references to prescribed wattages for incandescent bulbs.

The WP’s examination of the suitability of lights for modern yachts has revealed a high degree of compliance with COLREGS under sail. There are, however, some areas that need to be addressed for offshore racing yachts when operating as a power-driven vessel (PDV), particularly in regard to sidelights. Boats who exhibit sidelights from the top of the mast when sailing require a second set of sidelights below the masthead light when operating as a PDV. A boat less than 12m in length may use an all-round white light and sidelights in place of the masthead light and sternlight but it is to be placed at least 1m higher than the sidelights.

Information 
IRPCS 
Part C Lights and Shapes (Rules 20-31) 
Rule 20 states rules concerning lights apply from sunset to sunrise. Rule 21 gives definitions.

Rule 22 covers visibility of lights - indicating that lights should be visible at minimum ranges (in nautical miles) determined according to the type of vessel.

Rule 23 covers lights to be carried by power-driven vessels underway.

Rule 24 covers lights for vessels towing and pushing.

Rule 25 covers light requirements for sailing vessels underway and vessels under oars.

Annexes 
The COLREGs include four annexes:

Annex I - Positioning and technical details of lights and shapes