Offshore Special Regulations

OSR 3.29 Communications Equipment, GPS, Radar, AIS

3.29.13 AIS Transponder

A submission from the Royal Netherlands Watersports Association

Purpose or Objective
To extend the requirement for an AIS Transponder to races in MoMu category 3.

Proposal
Amend the regulation by adding category 3 as follows:

MoMu0,1,2,3 3.29.13 an AIS Transponder which either:
Mu 1,2,3
MoMu0,1,2,3 3.29.13 a) shares the masthead antenna via a low loss AIS antenna splitter;
or
MoMu0,1,2,3 3.29.13 b) has a dedicated AIS antenna etc.etc. (No further changes in text)

Current Position
As above, however no requirement for AIS Transponders in category 3

Reasons
1. Category 3 races are often sailed in congested waters with heavy commercial traffic for which AIS is compulsory according SOLAS chapter 5. AIS has become a standard navigation safety aid in waters shared by commercial vessels and racing yachts.

2. In case of an emergency without proper communication, AIS helps to find the position and track of the boat in distress.

3. An AIS personal crew overboard beacon, or as otherwise mentioned an AIS MOB PLB, for each crewmember are more and more becoming a regular outfit for offshore sailors, either cruising or racing, and not only in category 0, 1 and 2 races where it is compulsory. These beacons are only of use if the boat has been equipped with an AIS (receiver) on board.

4. Many Organising Authorities, organising category 3 races, already mention in their NOR’s and SI’s the requirement to have an AIS transceiver and have it switched on during the race. In fact they are overruling the OSR by adding this safety aspect.