Submission: SR08-19

**Offshore Special Regulations**

**OSR 4.15 – Emergency Steering**

A submission from Sail Canada

**Purpose or Objective**

To accept independent dual steering as equivalent to an emergency tiller.

**Proposal**

Amend the regulation as follows:

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4.15 Emergency Steering
MoMu0,1,2,34.15.1 An emergency tiller capable of being fitted to the rudder stock except when:
MoMu0,1,2,3 a) the principal method of steering is by means of an unbreakable metal tiller.
MoMu0,1,2,3 b) there are two methods (e.g. tillers, wheels) of controlling a rudder, neither of which shares components with the other except for the rudder stock.
MoMu0,1,2,34.15.2 A proven method of emergency steering with the rudder disabled.
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**Current Position**

As above,

**Reasons**

A recent trend in yacht design is to provide two helm stations, generally two steering wheels. These might be connected to one rudder or to two rudders.

Consider a boat where the first helm controls one rudder and second controls the second rudder, with no shared components except for a tie rod between them. If the first helm fails, the second helm can still control the both rudders, thereby fulfilling the role of the emergency tiller. Even if the tie rod failed, one rudder could be controlled. When the functioning rudder is on the windward side, the sail plan will have to be de-powered but the boat can still be steered to a harbour.

Consider a boat with one rudder and two steering wheels. Provided there are two independent steering systems (2 quadrants, two sets of steering cables etc.), if one
fails, the other can control the rudder stock, thereby fulfilling the role of the emergency tiller.

In both aforementioned cases, a back-up method of controlling the rudder blade is provided without the need for an emergency tiller.

Note that the systems outlined in the Edson literature typically shows a single quadrant and a single cable-and-chain passing across both steering wheels – this would not meet the proposed OSR and would still require an emergency tiller.

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