Offshore Special Regulations

OSR 4.20.3 Liferaft Packing and Stowage

A deferred submission from Roy van Aller (NED), Special Regulations Sub-committee

Purpose or Objective
Delete OSR 4.20.3 b

Proposal
Amend regulation:

Delete: “In a boat with primary launch before June 2001, a liferaft may be packed in a valise not exceeding 40 kg securely stowed below deck adjacent to a companionway.”

Current Position
As above

Reason
1. Serious accidents because of structural failure with boats built before 2001
2. Liferafts stowed below deck cannot be reached after a capsize

Above proposal with reasons have been concluded in the evaluation and accident investigation of the sudden capsize of the Dutch yacht Capella, 1st July 2017, at an offshore race of the Belgian Coast, with the loss of 3 lives. Capella was built 1992.
Note: Minutes of the October 2018 meeting:

“d) OSR 4.20.3 b) Liferaft Stowage
Submission SR04-18 from Roy van Aller was received to remove allowance for liferaft stowage below deck.
The submission proposed to delete 4.20.3(b):
“In a boat with primary launch before June 2001, a liferaft may be packed in a valise not exceeding 40 kg securely stowed below deck adjacent to a companionway.”
The Committee noted that the EU Recreational Craft Directive (RCD) specifies the provision of a dedicated stowage space for a liferaft on deck or in locker opening to the deck. The introduction of the RCD and a phasing-in time period for other new designs not built to the RCD was the reason for the OSR allowance for boats built prior to June 2001.
There was concern that the number of boats which would be affected had not been quantified. It was noted that RORC require all boats competing in the Fastnet race to submit a photo of their liferaft in its stowage position and that this would be a useful resource to assess the number of boats that would be affected by the deletion of 4.20.3(b).
On the Tuesday meeting it was agreed to review the initial position taken at the Monday meeting to approve. At the Tuesday meeting it was agreed to defer the submission to the 2019 meeting.
Recommendation to the Oceanic and Offshore Committee: Defer

Oceanic and Offshore Committee Decision: Defer “