

Offshore Special Regulations

OSR 3.29.13 a, b AIS Transponder

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

Purpose or Objective

To extend the requirement for an AIS Transponder to races in MoMu category 3

Proposal

Amend regulation:

MoMu 0,1,2,**3** 3.29.13 an AIS Transponder which either:

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 not less than 38 cm etc.etc. [No further changes in text.]

Current Position

As above, no requirement for AIS transponder in Category 3.

Reason

1. Category 3 races are often sailed in congested waters with heavy commercial traffic. AIS is becoming more and more a standard navigation safety instrument. Not only on board racing yachts but even mainly on board cruising yachts.
 2. In case of emergency without proper communication, AIS helps to find the track and position of the boat in distress.
 3. Even if the boat sinks or capsizes, AIS can determine the position where this happens at the place where the track stops.
 4. AIS MOB PLB's attached to the lifejackets are more and more becoming a regular outfit for offshore sailors and are only of use if the boat has been equipped with an AIS [receiver] on board.
 5. 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. The Capella was not equipped with AIS.
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