Offshore Special Regulations

3.14.6 – Lifelines

A submission from the Chairman, Special Regulations

Purpose or Objective

Delete the requirement for dyneema rope to be single braid. Increase minimum diameter.

Proposal: Amend to read as

“ OSR 3.14.6 – Lifeline Minimum Diameters, Required Materials, Specifications

(a) Lifelines shall be of:
  - Stranded stainless steel wire or
  - Single-braid High Modulus Polyethylene (HMPE) (Dyneema/Spectra or equivalent) rope (Braid on braid is recommended)

(b) The minimum diameter is specified in table 8 below.

(c) Stainless steel lifelines shall be uncoated and used without close-fitting sleeving, however temporary sleeving may be fitted provided it is regularly removed for inspection.

(d) When stainless wire is used, Grade 316 is recommended

(e) When HMPE (Dyneema/Spectra) is used, it shall be spliced in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommended procedures.

(f) A taut lanyard of synthetic rope may be used to secure lifelines provided the gap it closes does not exceed 100mm (4in). This lanyard shall be replaced annually at a minimum.

(g) All wire, fittings, anchorage points, fixtures and lanyards shall comprise a lifeline enclosure system which has at all points at least the breaking strength of the required lifeline wire.

TABLE 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOA</th>
<th>wire</th>
<th>Single braid dyneema rope</th>
<th>Braid on braid dyneema rope core</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 8.5m(28ft)</td>
<td>3mm(1/8 in)</td>
<td>3mm 4mm(5/32 in)</td>
<td>4mm(5/32 in)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.5m-13m</td>
<td>4mm(5/32 in)</td>
<td>4mm(5/32 in)</td>
<td>4mm(5/32 in)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 13m (43ft)</td>
<td>5mm(3/16in)</td>
<td>5mm(3/16in)</td>
<td>5mm(3/16in)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reason:

Several major rope manufacturers have developed dyneema ropes for lifeline, and they recommend braid on braid. Increase minimum diameter for dyneema from 3mm to 4mm.