Offshore Special Regulation 4.02 – Hull marking (colour blaze)

High visibility colour on monohulls

A submission from Sten Edholm, Special Regulations Sub-Committee

Purpose or Objective

To amend 4.02.1 to harmonize oceanic requirements for highly visibility colour paint on the underwater appendages to support SAR location.

Proposal

New text

4.02.3 Each yacht shall show on each side of the underwater hull an area of fluorescent pink or orange or yellow colour of at least 4 sqm.

Current Position

4.02.3 Each yacht is recommended to show on each underwater appendage an area of highly visible colour

Reason

Cat 0 and Cat 1 races are both oceanic races. It is logical that both categories have the same requirements for high visibility marking as multihulls. This follows also the recommendations from the US Sailing Report on the Rambler accident at Fastnet Race 2011

The regulations should not only be valid for canting keels, there are several accidents over the last years that have been with boats with traditional keels that have broken.

The area should be compared similar to that OSR requests 4 sqm on the coachroof and/or deck (OSR 4.0.1 a). The visibility against SAR units should be the same, whether upright or turtle.

The present wording “each underwater appendage” may be translated as that rudders, crossbeams etc should all be marked. The regulation should refer to the hull only.