Special Regulations Sub-committee – November 2015
Oceanic and Offshore Committee

Submission: SR06-15

Offshore Special Regulation 3.29.1 (b)

Communications Equipment – VHF transceiver output power

A submission from Yachting Australia

Purpose or Objective
Provide simpler, outcomes based safety regulation.

Proposal
Amend 3.29.1(b) to read:

3.29.1 (b) Permanently installed VHF transceivers shall:

i Have a minimum rated output power of 25 W.

ii Have a mast head antenna on boats with a mast height above the water of 11 m or more.

iii Have transmission and reception with a base station at least 8 nautical miles distant.

iv Be tested in accordance with the Notice of Race.

Current Position
3.29.1 (b)
When the marine radio transceiver is VHF:

i it shall have a rated output power of 25W

ii it shall have a masthead antenna, and co-axial feeder cable with not more than 40% power loss

iii the following types and lengths of co-axial feeder cable will meet the requirements of OSR 3.29.1 (b)(ii): (a) up to 15m (50ft) - type RG8X ("mini 8"); (b) 15-28m (50-90ft) - type RG8U; (c) 28-43m (90-140ft) - type 9913F (uses conventional connectors, available from US supplier Belden); (d) 43-70m) 140-230ft - type LMR600 (uses special connectors, available from US supplier Times Microwave).

Reason
1. The current regulation is complex and requires a high degree of technical knowledge to understand.
2. The technical requirements in the current regulation do not provide a practical outcome.
3. The proposed regulation will result in the boat being able to demonstrate that its communication equipment can transmit and receive in accordance with the requirements of the event.
4. The proposed regulation provides the boat simpler outcomes based tests.