Offshore Special Regulations – 3.28.4

Sealed Battery Requirements for Categories 0 to 3

A submission from Yachting Australia

Purpose or Objective

To require sealed batteries for category 1, 2 and 3

Proposal

3.28.4 Battery Systems

a) When an electric starter is the only method for starting the engine, the yacht shall have a separate battery, the primary purpose of which is to start the engine

b) All rechargeable batteries on board shall be of the sealed type from which liquid electrolyte cannot escape. Other types of battery installed on board at 1/12 06 may continue in use for the remainder of their service lives, although it is strongly recommended that they be changed for sealed batteries as soon as possible.

c) It is recommended that consideration be given to the installation of
sealed batteries, noting however that a special charging device may be specified by the battery manufacturers

Current Position

As above

Reason

It is considered that sealed batteries should now be required rather than recommended for safety reasons. They are now becoming more available and more reasonably priced.