Offshore Special Regulations 4.20.2

Liferaft Construction and Packed Equipment

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

Purpose or Objective

To require modern higher specification liferafts to be carried in 2013

Proposal

4.20.2 Liferaft(s) shall be provided capable of carrying the whole crew when each liferaft MoMu1,2 shall comply with either:-

a) OSR 4.20.1(b) (SOLAS), or

b) For, **2012 only**, liferafts manufactured prior to January 2003, OSR Appendix A part I (ORC) [Note: In 2013 OSR Appendix A Part I (ORC) liferafts will no longer be acceptable], or

c) OSR Appendix A part II (ISAF) when, unless otherwise specified by a race organizer, the floor shall include thermal insulation, or

d) ISO 9650 Part I Type I Group A (ISO) when each liferaft shall contain at least a Pack 2 (<24h) and

i) shall have a semi-rigid boarding ramp, and

ii) shall be so arranged that any high-pressure hose shall not impede the boarding process, and

iii) shall have a topping-up means provided for any inflatable boarding ramp, and

iv) when the liferaft is designed with a single ballast pocket this shall be accepted provided the liferaft otherwise complies with ISO 9650 and meets a suitable test of ballast pocket strength devised by the manufacturer and

v) compliance with OSR 4.20.2 (d) i-iv shall be indicated on the liferaft certificate.

Current Position

Liferafts built prior to January 2003 that meet OSR Appendix A part I (ORC) are currently allowed.

Reason

In 2013 all of the permitted OSR Appendix A Part I (ORC) liferafts will be at least 10 years old. Appendix A Part II and ISO 9650 liferafts are substantially better than Appendix A part one rafts. After 10 years it is time to end the grandfathering clause that allows the use of liferafts with an outdated specification.