Offshore Special Regulations – 5.07

PLB

A submission from Yachting Australia

Purpose or Objective

To mandate the use of PLBs for crew on deck for category 0, 1, and 2.

Proposal

5.07 Survival Equipment

5.07.1 One set of Survival Equipment shall be supplied to each crew member to include:-

a) an immersion suit (attention is drawn to EN ISO 15027-1 constant wear suits, and EN ISO 15027-2 abandonment suits and the LSA Code Chapter II, 2,3);

b) a PLB (Personal Locator Beacon) equipped with 406MHz and 121.5MHz shall be carried by or attached to each member of the crew when on deck. From 1 July 2015 all 406MHz PLBs shall be GPS capable.

c) a personal unit in addition to the PLB in OSR 4.07.1(b) if the location device carried by the yacht in accordance with OSR 3.29.1(h) requires it;

d) Attention is drawn to the value of keeping on the person a combined 406MHz/121.5MHz PLB when on deck; this may aid location in a man overboard incident independent of the equipment carried by the parent vessel.

ed) All PLB units, as with other types of EPIRB, should be properly registered with the appropriate authority

Current Position

As above

Reason

It is considered that for Category 1 and 2 races PLBs that are GPS capable should be mandatory, because of greatly improved accuracy and response times for only a small increase in cost. GPS capability allows direct transmission of location co-ordinates, rather than requiring multiple satellite passes, and improved accuracy to within 120 metres.

Note typo correction to (c) from 4.07.1(b) to 5.07.1(b)