Offshore Special Regulations – 3.14.6

Lifeline Minimum Diameters, Required Materials, Specifications

A Submission from the Chairman, Special Regulations Sub-Committee

Proposal

Add text in red:

a) Lifelines shall be of:
- stranded stainless steel wire or
- single-braided Dyneema®/Spectra® rope

b) The minimum diameter is specified in table 8 below.

c) Stainless steel lifelines shall be uncoated and used without close-fitting sleeving, however, temporary sleeving may be fitted provided it is regularly removed for inspection.

d) When stainless wire is used, Grade 316 is recommended.

e) When Dyneema®/Spectra® is used, it is recommended that:
- Grade SK75 or SK78 is used recommended.
- Splices are used in preference to knots
- Splices should be lock stitched and the throat whipped
- the buried tail should be not less than 72 times the diameter of the line
- the buried tail should have a long smooth taper
- all metal edges in contact with the line shall be smoothly rounded with no sharp edges.
- larger than minimum diameter rope should be used, and/or a Dyneema®/Spectra® sleeve in areas of chafe.
- exposing rope to heat above 100°C is avoided (such as a hot air gun for heat shrink tubing.)
- lifelines are replaced after a maximum of 5 years

f) A taut lanyard of synthetic rope may be used to secure lifelines provided the gap it closes does not exceed 100 mm (4 in). This lanyard shall be replaced annually at a minimum.

g) All wire, fittings, anchorage points, fixtures and lanyards shall comprise a lifeline enclosure system which has at all points at least the breaking strength of the required lifeline wire.

| Table 8 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| LOA             | minimum wire or rope diameter |
| under 8.5 m (28ft) | 3 mm (1/8 in) |
| 8.5m - 13 m     | 4 mm (5/32 in) |
| over 13 m (43 ft) | 5 mm (3/16 in) |
Current Position

As above

Reason:

Following the introduction of Dyneema lifelines into the OSR in 2010, US Sailing produced detailed recommendations. This submission proposes to incorporate the key recommendations into the OSR text.