Offshore Special Regulations – 4.20

Liferaft Specification

A submission from Janet Grosvenor Chairman of the Liferaft Working Party

Purpose or Objective

To clarify the wording and start the phasing out of the superseded ISAF liferaft standard.

Proposal

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<th>Liferafts</th>
<th>MoMu0,1,2</th>
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<td>4.20.1 Liferaft Construction</td>
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<td>MoMu1,2</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) One or more inflatable liferafts shall be provided with a total capacity to accommodate at least the total number of people on board.</td>
<td>MoMu1,2</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Each liferaft provided shall comply with either:-</td>
<td>MoMu1,2</td>
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<tr>
<td>i) SOLAS LSA code 1997 Chapter IV or later version, or</td>
<td>MoMu1,2</td>
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<td>ii) ISO 9650-1:2005, Part I, Type I, Group A or</td>
<td>MoMu1,2</td>
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<td>iii) ISAF liferaft manufactured before 01/16 until replacement is due at end of serviceable life, or</td>
<td>MoMu1,2</td>
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<tr>
<td>iv) ORC liferaft manufactured before the end 01/03 until replacement is due at end of serviceable life.</td>
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<td>c) A sufficient number of liferafts shall be provided so that in the event of one liferaft being lost or rendered unserviceable, adequate capacity remains for all persons on board</td>
<td>MoMu0</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Liferafts shall comply with SOLAS LSA code 1997 Chapter IV or later version.</td>
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4.20.2 Minimum Liferaft Equipment

| a) A SOLAS liferaft shall contain as a minimum a SOLAS A pack; | MuMo0,1,2 |
| b) An ISO 9650 liferaft shall contain as a minimum Pack 1 (greater than 24 hour pack); | MuMo1 |
| c) An ISO 9650 liferaft shall contain as a minimum Pack 2 (less than 24 hour pack); | MuMo2 |
| d) The minimum contents of the ISO liferaft equipment packs are listed below. Not all items are necessarily packed within the liferaft. Some items are permitted to be carried within an accompanying waterproof grab bag which shall be in a readily accessible location: | MoMu1,2 |
4.20.3 Liferaft Packing and Stowage

a) Each liferaft shall be packed either in:-
   i) a rigid container securely stowed on the working deck, in the cockpit or in an open space; or:-
   ii) a rigid container or valise securely stowed in a dedicated weather tight locker containing liferaft and abandon ship equipment only which is readily accessible and opens onto the cockpit or working deck, or transom

b) In a yacht with age or series date before June 2001, a liferaft may be packed in a valise not exceeding 40kg securely stowed below deck adjacent to a companionway.

c) Liferaft stowage on a multihull and a monohull with moveable ballast shall be such that each liferaft may be readily removed and launched whether or not the yacht is inverted.

d) The end of each liferaft painter line should be permanently made fast to a strong point on board the yacht.
4.20.4 Liferaft Launching
a) Each liferaft shall be capable of being launched overboard within 15 seconds;

b) Each liferaft weighing more than 40kg should be stowed so that they can be launched without significant lifting.

Current Position

4.20 Liferafts

4.20.1 Liferaft Construction and Packed Equipment
a) A sufficient number of liferafts shall be provided so that in the event of any one liferaft being lost or rendered unserviceable, sufficient aggregate capacity remains for all persons on board

b) Liferafts shall comply with SOLAS LSA code 1997 Chapter IV or later version except that they are acceptable with a capacity of 4 persons and may be packed in a valise. A SOLAS liferaft shall contain at least a SOLAS "A" pack.

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

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

b) for liferafts manufactured prior to January 2003, OSR Appendix A part I (ORC), 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.

4.20.3 Liferaft Packing and Stowage
A Liferaft shall be either:-

a) packed in a transportable rigid container or canister and stowed on the working deck or in the cockpit, or:-

b) packed in a transportable rigid container or canister or in a
valise and stowed in a purpose-built rigid compartment containing liferaft(s) only and opening into or adjacent to the cockpit or working deck, or through a transom, provided that:-

i each compartment is watertight or self-draining (self-draining compartments will be counted as part of the cockpit volume except when entirely above working deck level or when draining independently overboard from a transom stowage - see OSR 3.09) and-

MoMu0,1,2

ii the cover of each compartment is capable of being easily opened under water pressure, and-

MoMu0,1,2

iii the compartment is designed and built to allow a liferaft to be removed and launched quickly and easily, or-

MoMu0,1,2

iv in a yacht with age or series date before June 2001, a liferaft may be packed in a valise not exceeding 40kg securely stowed below deck adjacent to a companionway.

MoMu1,2

v Liferaft stowage on a multihull and a monohull with moveable ballast shall be such that each liferaft may be readily removed and launched whether or not the yacht is inverted.

MoMu0,1,2

c) The end of each liferaft painter should be permanently made fast to a strong point on board the yacht.

MoMu0,1,2

4.20.4 Liferaft Launching

a) Each raft shall be capable of being got to the lifelines or launched within 15 seconds.

MoMu0,1,2

b) Each liferaft of more than 40kg weight should be stowed in such a way that the liferaft can be dragged or slid into the sea without significant lifting.

MoMu0,1,2

Reasons

Regarding SOLAS liferafts, the wording has been deleted from 4.20.1(b) “or later version except that they are acceptable with a capacity of 4 persons and may be packed in a valise. “ This applies to very few rafts and if needed is better dealt with in regulations for the specific event.

ISO table of contents added as definitive.