Offshore Special Regulations 4.03

Material of Plugs for Through Hull Openings

A submission from the US SAILING Association

Proposal

4.03 Soft Wood Plugs
Soft wood or polyurethane foam plugs, tapered and of the appropriate size, shall be attached or stowed adjacent to the appropriate fitting for every through-hull opening.

Current Position

4.03 Soft Wood Plugs
Soft wood plugs, tapered and of the appropriate size, shall be attached or stowed adjacent to the appropriate fitting for every through-hull opening.

Reason
Innovations in polyurethane foam manufacturing have produced tapered polyurethane foam plugs that will function as efficiently as soft wood plugs in through-hull applications. Testing has demonstrated that these plugs hold in excess of 3 meters of continuous head pressure for an extended period of time.

Referring to Appendix G, Part C 4.2.3, polyurethane foam plugs will conform to irregular shaped holes in the hull and can be used to mitigate and minimize flooding.