Offshore Special Regulations – 4.26.4 g)  

Storm Trysail  
A submission from IRC

Introduction
The current regulation requires that a yacht racing in Categories 3 and 4, with a mainsail which cannot be reefed to reduce the luff by at least 40%, shall carry a storm trysail. To reduce the luff by 40% normally involves fitting 3 reefs on the sail. Many modern racing yachts which only race inshore cannot reduce luff by 40%, and it is believed that some of them do not carry a storm trysail.

Proposal
Delete the application to Category 4 from 4.26.4 g).

Reason
a) It is considered that yachts in Category 4 do not need to carry a storm trysail. If their mainsail becomes unusable they will normally retire because the time taken to lower it and hoist a trysail will be too long in relation to short cat 4 races and would prevent a competitive result. They can retire to a safe haven under genoa and/or engine.
b) Some owners and crews are unaware of the need to carry a trysail. This puts those who do at a disadvantage because of the extra cost and weight. Boats are not normally scrutinised except in top level competition.

Pfk 28.1.09