

LIFERAFT IN MEASUREMENT CONDITION

PROPOSAL

Amend IMS B4 to allow an owner to elect to include a liferaft in the boat's measurement condition, provided that its weight and position are controlled. Suggested rule wording:

Add to IMS B4.1:

- t) A liferaft may be included in measurement condition when it is secured in a declared position. Its identification, weight and longitudinal and vertical position shall be recorded in the measurement inventory. When racing under a certificate issued with the liferaft included, the boat shall carry the liferaft in the recorded position. A replacement liferaft shall have a weight not less than the recorded weight unless the certificate is amended.*

Amend IMS B4.2(e) to read:

- e) All portable safety gear, including fire extinguishers and liferafts, except for a liferaft included in measurement condition in accordance with B4.1(t).

Add to IMS B4.4(c):

- iii) A liferaft included under B4.1(t): manufacturer, model or other identification, weight, distance from the foremost point of LOA and height from the waterline.

The liferaft and its position may be identified by a measurer's label, seal or other approved control method.

RATIONALE

A liferaft is a substantial safety equipment item in many offshore races. Excluding it from measurement creates a disproportionate effect on smaller and lighter boats and discourages boats from carrying a liferaft in races where it is not expressly required. Allowing an owner to include a liferaft would:

- Encourage boats to carry this important safety equipment consistently.
- Recognise the actual sailing configuration of boats regularly competing offshore.
- Ensure that the weight and position are transparent and controlled.
- Remove a disproportionate penalty affecting smaller and lighter boats.
- Align the treatment of a securely positioned liferaft with other significant equipment recorded in the measurement inventory.

The proposal is optional. A boat choosing to include the liferaft would be required to carry it in the declared position whenever racing under that certificate. This prevents the rule from being used merely to add favourable measured displacement without carrying the corresponding equipment.