

OSR 3.14.6 Lifeline Specifications

Use of HMPE Lifelines

A submission from Royal Yachting Association

Purpose or Objective

To allow the use of HMPE lifelines in all categories of OSR.

Proposal

3.14.6 Lifeline Specifications

~~Mo0,1,2,3~~ ^{**} a) Lifelines of stranded stainless steel wire or HMPE

~~Mo4Mu~~ ^{**} a) Lifelines of either:

~~Mo4Mu~~ ^{**} i) ~~stranded stainless steel wire~~

~~Mo4Mu~~ ^{**} ii) ~~HMPE~~

^{**} 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) A lanyard of synthetic rope may be used to secure stainless steel lifelines provided the gap it closes does not exceed 100 mm (4"). This lanyard shall be replaced annually

^{**} e) All components of the lifeline enclosure system shall have a breaking strength no less than the lifeline

~~Mo4Mu~~ ^{**} f) When HMPE is used, it shall be protected from chafe and spliced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended procedures and regularly inspected.

Current Position

As Above

Reasons

A RORC working party* have undertaken a review of the Offshore Special Regulations.

HMPE is proven to be as strong or stronger than stainless steel guardwires. Damage to HMPE can be more easily assessed as it is visible. HMPE does not get kinks like stainless steel guardwires, kinks reduce the strength and can happen with something as simple as a sail catching on the wire. If there is a need to cut the lifeline, HMPE is much quicker to cut without the need for wire cutters.

*Members include Richard Palmer (Chair and Double Handed Sailor), Alistair Hackett (Ocean Safety), Martin Banfield (JOG), Dee Caffari – (Offshore Sailor), Ross Hobson (RORC Main Committee and Offshore Sailor), M Broughton, Anna Brooke (co-opted), Jeremy Wilton (RORC CEO), Jason Smithwick (Director of Rating), Janet Grosvenor (Racing Consultant), Chris Jackson (Race Team), Steve Cole (RORC Racing Manager).