

Submission: SR02-13

Offshore Special Regulations

4.28 Man Overboard Alarm

A submission from the RYA

Purpose or Objective

Amend the regulation to focus on the intended objective – to be able to log a man overboard almost instantly and the position be observed to enable the crew to easily navigate back to the position of the man overboard.

Proposal

~~4.28.2 A yacht is recommended to be equipped with an EPFS (e.g. GPS) capable of immediately recording man overboard position from each helm station. MoMu 1, 2~~

4.28.32 A yacht shall be equipped with an EPFS (e.g., GPS) capable of immediately recording a man overboard position within 10 seconds and monitoring that position. ~~from each helm station~~
(From January 2012) MoMu 1, 2

Current Position

There is currently no requirement that the position logged for the man overboard can be observed after being recorded; e.g., the existing requirement can be complied with using a remote for a GPS at the navigation station that, in a short-handed boat, could not be observed whilst controlling the boat; this should be addressed.

Reason

1. There is currently no requirement that the position logged for the man overboard can be observed after being recorded; e.g., the existing requirement can be complied with using a remote for a GPS at the navigation station that, in a short-handed boat, could not be observed whilst controlling the boat; this should be addressed
2. A short-handed boat will often not have a helm (person) at the helm station
3. An EPFS at the helm station is likely to impair night vision
4. The best solution is likely to depend upon the size of boat. Thus, for a small, well-crewed, boat, a reasonable approach may be for a crew member to activate a man overboard button at the navigation station quickly, whilst providing a continuous power supply (either permanently installed 12v supply or sufficient batteries) at the helm position can be difficult. Conversely, for a large boat, activating a man overboard button at the navigation station is likely to take longer and may not be appropriate but a power supply at the helm station is less likely to be a problem.