

Oceanic Races

Safety Devices

A submission from the Real Federación Española de Vela

Purpose or Objective

To establish the obligation of using certain safety devices in oceanic racing.

Proposal

To establish that the use of the following devices is obligatory in oceanic races, both double-handed and full crew.

1. Compulsory use of a receiver and transmitter AIS (Automatic Identification System)
 - a. It shall be connected at all times during the race;
 - b. The transponder will contain the MMSI of the boat, registered as a racing boat, and its name;
 - c. The transponder will be placed at the top of the mast. (they usually use the VHF aerial)
2. Compulsory for the skippers to wear a PFD with harness that includes a personal AIS device. It has to be able to send its position to any boat with an AIS working within a distance of at least 4 miles.

The personal AIS device will transmit the GPS position and a serial number to identify the signal with 24 hours transmission time after activation.

Current Position

None

Reasons

The AIS will facilitate the continuous following of the boats together with the other systems already used and provided by the organisers. Its compulsory and continuous use will make it another device to see and to be seen by other boats. This will reduce the risk of incidents or collisions with other boats.

In a double handed oceanic race it is advisable that, besides the personal locator beacon, the crew members always carry personal AIS. Its signal is immediately sent to the screen when it is activated. The signal is shown on the boat's screen and on the screen of any boat within the stated distance, which facilitates finding the position at all times.

Experienced skippers in oceanic racing (Volvo, BWR ...) have declared that safety is their main concern and that using a personal device that shows the position of a lost person on his own boat's screen, the closest to his position, will facilitate the rescue.
