

Offshore Special Regulations

3.14.6 – Lifelines

A submission from the Chairman, Special Regulations

Purpose or Objective

Delete the requirement for dyneema rope to be single braid. Increase minimum diameter.

Proposal: Amend to read as

“ OSR 3.14.6 – Lifeline Minimum Diameters, Required Materials, Specifications

- (a) Lifelines shall be of :
 - Stranded stainless steel wire or
 - ~~Single braid~~ High Modulus Polyethylene (HMPE) (Dyneema/Spectra or equivalent) rope (Braid on braid is recommended)
- (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) *When stainless wire is used , Grade 316 is recommended*
- (e) *When HMPE (Dyneema/Spectra) is used, it shall be spliced in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommended procedures.*
- (f) A taut lanyard of synthetic rope may be used to secure lifelines provided the gap it closes does not exceed 100mm (4in). This lanyard shall be replaced annually at a minimum.
- (g) All wire, fittings, anchorage points, fixtures and lanyards shall comprise a lifeline enclosure system which has at all points at least the breaking strength of the required lifeline wire.

TABLE 8

	minimum diameter		
LOA	wire	Single braid dyneema rope	<u>Braid on braid dyneema rope core</u>
Under 8.5m(28ft)	3mm(1/8 in)	3mm <u>4mm(5/32 in)</u>	<u>4mm(5/32 in)</u>
8.5m-13m	4mm(5/32 in)	4mm(5/32 in)	<u>4mm(5/32 in)</u>
Over 13m (43ft)	5mm(3/16in)	5mm(3/16in)	<u>5mm(3/16in)</u>

Reason:

Several major rope manufacturers have developed dyneema ropes for lifeline, and they recommend braid on braid. Increase minimum diameter for dyneema from 3mm to 4mm.