

**Heille 8 August 2011**

**Request for interpretation on IOM Class Rules IOM - 2011 - 3**

Request received from IOMICA

'Are single panel sails, moulded by exposure to heat over a form to the desired shape, in compliance with the **Class Rules**'

**Documents affecting**

**IOM Class Rules 2011 (CR)**

**Discussion**

To work effectively a **sail** must have a designed three dimensional shape. The wording of **CR** G3.2 and G4.2 control the manner in which **sails** are constructed and finished and the techniques allowed to achieve this. The number of panels that make up the **sail** are limited by the number of **seams** permitted , being respectively four in the **mainsail** and three in the **headsail**, with no minimum. Current and accepted practice is to use sail blocks to connect the panel **seams** to achieve the desired shape so in practice the panelled **sails** are 'moulded' on the sail blocks to create a designed three dimensional **sail** of the desired shape.

**Conclusion**

The conclusion is that firstly single panel **sails** are permissible under the **Class Rules** and that secondly the use of a mould to allow, by the application of heat, the currently used polyester film to conform to the mould shape is not prevented by the current CR.

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