



Offshore Special Regulations – Category 4

Disclaimer

The following summarises the equipment requirements set out in the 2024-25 World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations. This does not cover other requirements in those regulations (hull design, rigging, sails etc).

The provision of the below table does not relax the responsibility of a boat's person in charge, as set out in the offshore regulations for:

“Under RRS 3 the responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or continue racing is hers alone. The safety of a boat and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the person in charge who shall do his best to ensure that the boat is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced and appropriately trained crew who are physically fit to face all weather. The person in charge shall also assign a person to take over his responsibilities in the event of his incapacitation.”

Finally, whilst every effort has been made to ensure the completeness of the below table, it does not remove the responsibility of a boat's person in charge to ensure their boat's compliance with the relevant rule(s) that require compliance with the offshore special regulations.

The items in **yellow highlight** are not required for races in the UK or EU/MED as they have been excluded from the OSR Category 4 requirement in the class rules for races in the UK and EU/MED as per Notice of Series Amendment #1 for those series.

Table

Where no location is stated in the below table, this is because the OSR does not make special provision for the item of equipment. However, there is a general requirement for:

“2.04.1 All equipment required by OSR shall:

- a) function properly,
- b) be regularly checked, cleaned and serviced,
- c) if it has an expiry date, it will not have exceeded its expiry date whilst racing,
- d) when not in use be stowed in conditions in which deterioration is minimised,

e) be readily accessible, and

f) be of a type, size and capacity suitable and adequate for the intended use and size of the boat.

2.04.2 Heavy items shall be permanently installed or securely fastened.”

| OSR Reference | Equipment | Number Required | Required Location | Notes |
|---------------|--|-----------------|-------------------|-------|
| 3.18.2* | Permanently installed toilet or bucket | 1 | | |



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| 3.19.1* | Permanently installed bunks | | | |
| 3.23.1 | Strong Bucket with at least 9L capacity with lanyard | 2 | | |
| 3.23.1 d) | Manually operated bilge pump | 1 | | |
| 3.24 a)* | Marine magnetic compass independent of any power supply correctly adjusted with deviation card | 1 | Permanently installed such that it can be used for steering. | |
| 3.27.1 | Navigation lights | | Mounted above sheerline and so that they will not be masked by sails or the heeling of the boat | The lights must conform to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (Part C and Technical Annex I) and shall be exhibited as required by those regulations. |
| 3.27.4 | Spare bulbs (not required for LED) | | | |
| 3.29.2 | Hand-held marine VHF transceiver, watertight or with a waterproof cover. | 1 | | |
| 3.29.4 | A second radio receiver, capable of receiving weather bulletins. | | | |
| 4.03 | Tapered soft wood plug. | 1 per through hull opening | Adjacent to the relevant through hull opening. | |
| 4.05.1 | Fire blanket | 1 per cooking device | Adjacent to the cooking device | |
| 4.05.3 | Fire extinguisher | 2 | Different parts of the boat | |



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| 4.06.2 | Un-modified anchor that meets the anchor manufacturer's recommendation based on the boat's dimensions with suitable combination of chain and rope, | 1 | Arranged so that it can be ready for immediate assembly, and ready for deployment within 5 minutes. | |
| 4.08 | First Aid Manual and First Aid Kit. | 1 | | The contents and storage of the First Aid Kit shall reflect the likely conditions and duration of the passage, and the number of crewmembers |
| 4.09 | Foghorn | 1 | | |
| 4.10.1 | Radar reflector | 1 | | Passive radar reflector with either: a) octahedral circular plates of minimum diameter 30 cm b) octahedral rectangular plates of minimum diagonal dimension 40 cm , or c) a non-octahedral reflector with a documented root mean square minimum Radar Cross Section (RCS) area of 2 m ² from 0–360° of azimuth and ±20° of heel. |
| 4.11.2 | Navigational Charts and plotting equipment | | | If electric only, an independent alternative shall be on board. |
| 4.12 | Safety equipment location diagram | 1 | Clearly displayed in main accommodation | Must be marked with the location of principal items and be provided on durable waterproof material. |
| 4.13.2 | Depth sounder | 1 | | |
| 4.16.1 | Tools and spare parts, suitable for | | | |



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| | the duration and nature of the passage. | | | |
| 4.16.2 | Effective means to quickly disconnect or sever the standing rigging from the boat | 1 | | |
| 4.17 | The boat's name to be on miscellaneous buoyant equipment, such as lifejackets, cushions, lifebuoys, recovery slings, grab bags, etc. | | | |
| 4.18 | Marine grade retro-reflective material on lifebuoys, recovery slings, liferafts and lifejackets. | | | |
| 4.22.3 | Lifebuoy with a self-igniting light, a whistle, and a drogue | 1 | Within reach of the helmsman and ready for immediate use | If the lifebuoy is inflatable: each inflatable lifebuoy and any automatic device shall be tested and serviced at intervals in accordance with its manufacturer's instructions. |
| 4.22.4 | Heaving line | 1 | readily accessible to the cockpit. | No less than 6 mm diameter, 15–25 m long, |
| 4.23 | Orange Smoke flare | 2 | | Pyrotechnic signals shall be provided conforming to LSA Code Chapter III Visual Signals and not older than the stamped expiry date (if any) or if no expiry date stamped, not older than 4 years: |
| 4.25 | Strong, sharp knife, in a | 1 | readily accessible from the deck or a cockpit | |



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| | securely restrained sheath | | | |
| 4.26.1 | Either mainsail reefing to reduce the luff by 12.5% or a heavy weather jib (meeting the requirements of OSR 4.27.3 (or rotating wing mast if suitable or heavy-weather sail in a boat with no forestay)). | | | |
| 5.01 | Lifejacket meeting ISO12402-3 (150 level) or equivalent with crotch strap | 1 per crewmember | | If inflatable, be regularly checked for air retention. The person in charge shall personally check each lifejacket at least once annually. |