

CHALLENGER OF RECORD & DEFENDER AMERICA'S CUP 36

Interpretation 041 of AC75 Class Rule Version 1.7 issued 4th November 2019

Rules References:

17 *Bowsprit*

17.1 The combination of the **bowsprit** and the **hull** shall form a single **linear component**.

17.5 The **bowsprit** shall not be bonded to the **hull** and must be removable for easy replacement.

35.6 **Bowsprit**

A spar projecting forward from the bow to which the **code zero** can be attached.

11.16 The enclosed volume of the **hull surface**, including the volumes required by Rule 11.8 must be watertight

Further References:

Interpretations 001 and 029.

Background:

In Rule 17.5, the words “shall not be bonded” are together and to clearly qualify the “removable for easy replacement” of the **bowsprit**. We find a strict reading of these words would be an impediment to simple waterproofing as otherwise required by Rules 11.8 and 11.16.

For the sole purpose of water proofing, as normal boat maintenance, in small areas which may allow ingress of water, we would like to apply sticky-back or small superficial beads of a sealant, like silicone or *sikaflex*, on exterior and visible junctions of the interface between the **bowsprit** and the **yacht**.

Question:

Provided that the **Measurement Committee** is satisfied that:

- a) The **bowsprit** is removable for easy replacement; and
- b) The waterproofing sticky-back or sealant has no other relevant purpose in contributing to load passage from the **bowsprit** to the **yacht**, nor has any relevance in satisfying the **linear component** aspect of rule 17.1;

is the application by a Competitor of sticky back or a typical marine sealant on the outer most visible surfaces of small interfaces between the **bowsprit** and the **yacht**, for the purposes of waterproofing, rule compliant?

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Interpretation:

The word “bonded” in rule 17.5 derives from the transitive verb “to bond”. The appropriate definitions in the OED are:

a. in *Building*: To bind or connect together (bricks, stones, or different parts of a structure) by making one overlap and hold to another, so as to give solidity to the whole; to hold or bind together by bond-stones, clamps, etc.

and

c. To bind (contiguous surfaces or layers, esp. of different fabrics or clothing materials) *together* with an adhesive or by fusing; to cause (a surface or layer) to bind *with* or adhere *to* another surface or layer throughout its extent. Usually in *passive*. Cf. bind v. 10a.

In both definitions a synonym for “to bond” is “to bind”. The verb “to bind” is defined as:

I. To tie fast. [See also Branch IV.]

a. *transitive*. To make fast with a tie; to fasten, tie up.

b. To tie fast *to* (*on, upon*).

The definitions of “to bond” and the synonym “to bind” imply a structural cohesion. Thus, any non-structural fairing or sealing between the **bowsprit** and the **hull** does not qualify as “bonded” in the sense of rule 17.5.

Answer:

Yes. The **bowsprit** will not be considered bonded to the **hull** by any sealant or sticky-back, provided that such waterproofing does not provide any significant structural support to the connection and is therefore not banned by rule 17.5.

END.