



Safety Thursday: Prerace Inspections

April 11, 2013

Our topic today is pre-race safety inspections. A minimum of 25% of the entrants will be subject to Pre-Race Inspection. All new boats entering the race will automatically be selected for pre-race inspection. In accordance with the Notice of Race it is the responsibility of the Owner or Person in Charge to schedule their inspection. In addition to new boats, boats switching divisions or with a new invited competitor will be subject to prerace inspection, and all boats are subject to random pre-race inspection. Additionally, any boat entered in the race can request a prerace inspection at their option. It's a great opportunity to ensure that your boat fully complies with the safety equipment rules.

Pre-race inspections are intended to help ensure that all boats comply with the Mac Safety Regulations (MSRs), while at the same time helping to educate our fleet about those requirements of the MSRs and other safety topics. Upon completion of the Pre-Race Inspection we will tell you either that the boat passed pre-race inspection, or we will ask you to correct any deficiencies and report their correction back to us. The inspector will determine if a re-inspection is necessary and it can be scheduled at that time. Remember that it is responsibility of the invited competitor to schedule the inspection and that you cannot complete Pre-Race Sign In until you have passed inspection. The pre-race inspection is not intended to be an adversarial experience, but rather a cooperative and educational one. We want to work with our sailors to help them be as safe as possible while on the Lake.

In the past, items that have been inspected included things such as SOLAS flares, proper PFDs, EPIRBs/PLBs and the like. However, the inspector can

check for any item or matter covered by the MSRs. The Mackinac Safety Regulations (MSR) and the Safety and Seamanship Checklist are the documents of record for safety issues for the Race to Mackinac. We advise that you use both of these documents as checklists to ensure that you have complied with all of the safety and seamanship requirements prior to the inspection.

Inspections can take place at the CYC Monroe Station or the CYC Belmont Station's docks. We will also schedule inspections at your dock or mooring at Monroe, DuSable, Belmont, Montrose, and Burnham harbors. If there is sufficient demand we plan to schedule inspections on specific days in Milwaukee, WI; Muskegon, MI; Holland, MI, and in the Detroit area. We will announce these plans in late May or early June. If the boat is fully prepared, a prerace inspection can be completed in about an hour.

To determine if an inspection is required, the invited competitor should log into the record for their boat in the Race Management system ("Competitor login" on the Race's website). Look for the line "Inspection: Pre-race Inspection". It will either say "Not selected or completed" or "required". If it is required, the invited competitor must arrange the inspection by emailing chiefinspector@cycracetomackinac.com. You should hear back within 72 hours. We will also make best efforts to reach out to the invited competitor in each boat where inspection is required.

Upon completion of the Pre-Race Inspection we will tell you that the boat passed or we will ask you to correct any deficiencies and report their correction back to us. The inspector will determine if a re-inspection is necessary and it can be scheduled at that time. Remember that it is your responsibility to schedule the inspection and that you cannot complete Pre-Race Sign In until you have passed inspection.

Please direct any questions you may have to racecoordinator@chicagoyachtclub.org.

Note: The purpose of this article is to highlight some of the Mac Safety Regulations and how your crew can race the Mac as safely as possible. As always, ultimate responsibility for the safety of the crew and the decision whether to race or to stop racing is that of the skipper (RRS4, MSR2). This email is meant as a courtesy only and you should always refer to the Race Documents section of the website for the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions and Mac Safety Regulations, which govern the race.