



The 43rd Annual
BLACKLINE MARINE
PATOS ISLAND RACE
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club
1949 Marina Way, North Saanich, B.C.
March 21 & 22, 2026

2026 Patos Island Race OSR Significant Changes
Version 1.0 – December 31, 2025

Significant Changes to the OSRs for 2026

While there are a number of small changes to the Offshore Special Regulations (OSRs) for 2026, there are three that racers need to consider early. This document will help you understand the changes and what you need to do. It will be updated as new information comes available.

1. Lifejackets

OSR 5.01.1 changes to no longer allow lifejackets manufactured earlier than 2011, and stipulates that they be “gas inflated”. World Sailing uses ISO standard 12402-3 to cover lifejackets. Transport Canada does not recognize ISO12402, so Sail Canada has added a North American standard (UL1180) and then adds the pieces that standard misses – harness, crotch strap, light, hood and harness. They also added that a harness must be integrated with the lifejacket now.

If your lifejacket is now out of date, you will need to obtain one that meets all those standards. Standards compliance is usually listed on the manufacturers website and on a label on the lifejacket itself.

Examples of lifejackets meeting the requirements are the Mustang Atlas 190 DLX and the Spinlock Deckvest VITO and Deckvest 6D.

2. AIS

For the past 3 years, the World Sailing requirement for AIS in Cat 3 events has been waived by BC Sailing. That is no longer the case, and all boats entered in any Cat 3 event (such as the Offshore Long or Short Course) must have an AIS transceiver for 2026. While you probably wanted to have AIS for a tactical advantage while racing, the intent is to improve safety sailing near commercial traffic.

Affordable AIS units such as em-track B923 (and many others) meet this requirement, are affordable, and can easily be integrated with your existing VHF radio and chart plotter. Some will show AIS information on charting applications on your smartphone or tablet.

3. Stability

The stability requirements laid out in OSR 3.04 have been waived by BC sailing for several years as we learned how to implement it. As planned, the waiver has been dropped starting with 2026 and all boats entered in any Cat 3 event (such as the Offshore Long or Short Course) will have to show evidence that they meet this



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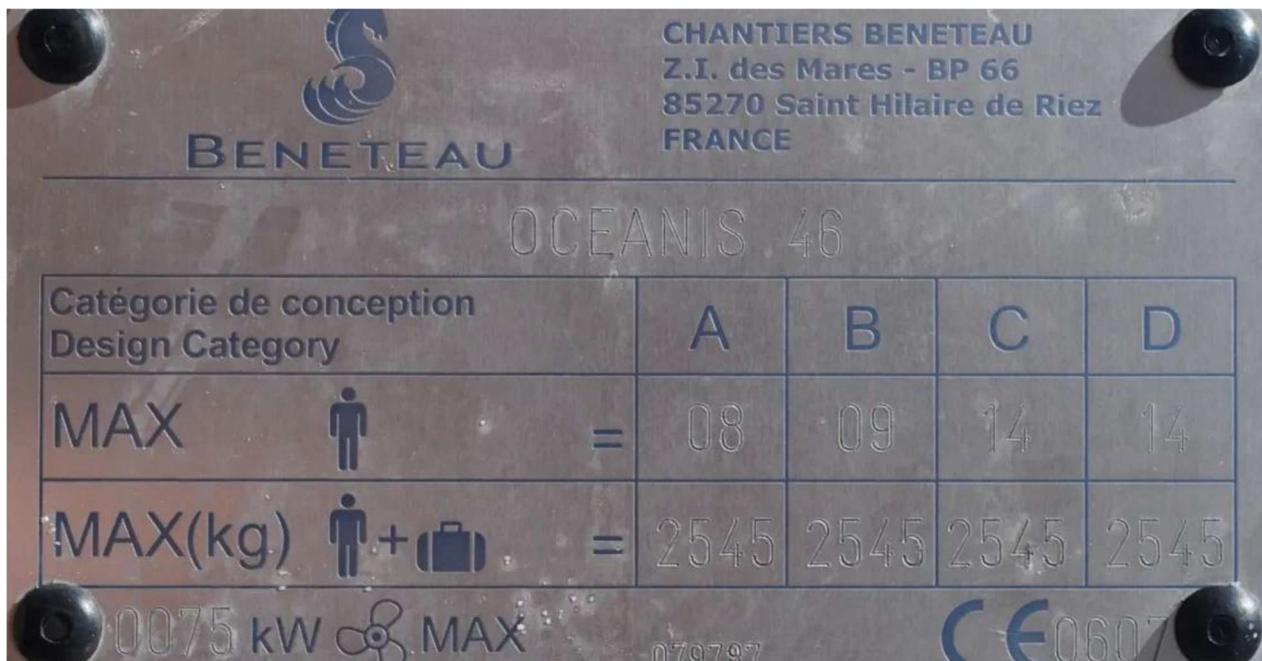
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requirement. For most boats this is straight forward but for a few boats it can take time to find or generate the information. You'll need to supply this stability data with your registration.

a) If your boat was built for the EU market after 1995, it will have a CE certification plaque. If it shows it as meeting the "B" level (offshore), you're good. The plaque will look like this:



In this example for a Beneteau Oceanis 46, it is certified to carry 9 people when sailing offshore (the "B" column). On your registration form, write CE category A8B9C14. Some boats may have blanks in the A and B column – they are not suitable for offshore sailing and do not qualify for Cat 3 events.

b) Next check the list of known boats on Sail Canada's web site – see the links to the "Stability Screening List" at the bottom of <https://www.sailing.ca/stability-screening/> This list has been created by Sail Canada – mostly the Lake Ontario fleet, and is being added to regularly. If your boat is on this list and it shows a "Stability Category" of 3 or less, quote the stability information from here on your registration form with "Sail Canada" as the source. We have been adding boats with known information as we find it.



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- c) If you have an IMS, ORR or ORC certificate (even an expired one or one from a sistership) that shows stability information, you can use that. These will show a STBIX number, and if it's over 103 and you're boat weights more than 1,500kg you're all set. Quote the STBIX and weight on your registration form and the certificate as the source. You should provide a copy of the certificate as they are not public.
- d) If all else fails, contact us (info@patosislandrace.com) and ask for help. If you give us enough time, we will be able to get an approximation you can use to enter any Cat 3 race.

Please review your stability information early so that you have time to find missing data or resolve any issues.