

Quality in relation to Boats and Equipment

It matters not whether you are planning a world cruise or a day trip, to be safe the vessel must be adequately equipped and seaworthy. Some countries are currently introducing new “rules of construction”, dependent on the type of boat, and whether operated inshore or offshore.

For example, a vessel rated for inshore will be of a lesser build quality than its identical *looking* counterpart operating offshore.

This raises the question as to what happens in an emergency or other unexpected situation, if an inshore rated vessel exceeds its outer boundary? Is it strong enough? Are there enough bilge pumps of adequate capacity? Is the life-saving equipment suitable?... Will the insurance suddenly be void? With such doubts, is a skipper legally required to respond to a **MAYDAY**, or similar, occurring outside his parameters?

One thing is certain, inshore **OR** offshore, when caught in bad weather or other emergency situations, you need the sturdiest, most well found vessel possible... *if YOU, and IT, are to survive.*

For everyone's safety throughout the boating spectrum, there must be a *single set of standards* that match the commonsense, long established, tried and true rules of Lloyds, Veritas and ABS. Your vessel may not *be* certified to such standards, but there is nothing to prevent you upgrading within future maintenance and modifications. Purchase of top quality materials and parts is the first step.

Society rules cover all construction materials in use today, plus recommended work practices and specifications to ensure the safety of yourself and others. For a moderate fee, the relevant publications are available to all.

Such obscure double standards are unacceptable when only the BEST will do.

“Equip with quality... to survive the worst”

My aim is to assist newcomers and “old hands” alike, *and give fresh hope to the owners of those millions of permanently “marina bound” boats that are crying out to be used.*

I'll describe each piece of equipment, explain its function and necessity in relation to voyaging. If you have purchased your vessel by using the survey system described, you will have checked the quality of the fittings and equipment, and will know which pieces need updating or replacement.

Before continuing, a **word of WARNING**. There are many **inferior goods on sale**. These range throughout the spectrum from electrical components to standard hardware. *Often these items are brightly plated and packaged*, but when used, even under *lighter* than normal conditions, they fail dismally. Some units leak electrically resulting in **electrolysis and eventual serious damage to the vessel...** Some substandard parts have **caught fire**.