



MECAL TECHNICAL NOTE

MTN 22-2

Issued by the *MECAL* Technical Committee

GUARDRAILS LESS THAN 1000mm HIGH

Reference: Motor Vessels

Guardrails less than 1000mm high may be accepted subject to equivalent protection of personnel being provided. Jackstays and harness attachment points, extra handrails etc may have to supplement under-height guardrails to provide equivalent levels of protection in areas of special risk such as fore decks and flybridges.

Warning signs and appropriate barriers must be provided to exclude passengers from areas where equivalent standards of protection cannot be achieved.

For guardrails on motor vessels such as Fairline, Sealine, Princess, Sunseeker fast motor yachts which are below strict code requirements the following guidance is given :

a. Foredecks. Guardrails less than 1000mm may be accepted provided they are otherwise secure and effective, but passengers must be excluded from the foredeck when the vessel is underway at sea. Notices and barrier lines are to be rigged at the side deck/step up points. Crew may use the foredeck at sea, but jackstays, harnesses and safety lines are to be available for use when conditions are not favourable at the discretion of the Captain. Passengers may use the foredeck when the vessel is not underway, at the discretion of the Captain and after receiving an appropriate safety briefing.

b. Flybridge. Guardrails less than 1000mm may be accepted provided they are otherwise secure and effective, and secure seating is provided. Passengers may use the flybridge in favourable condition but must use the secure seating, at the discretion of the Captain and after receiving an appropriate safety briefing. Effective clip on points and jackstays etc must be provided for use of crew and sea school trainees when conditions are not favourable at the discretion of the Captain.

c. Stern Lounging Areas. Guardrails less than 1000mm may be accepted provided they are otherwise secure and effective, and secure seating is provided. Passengers may use these lounging areas underway at sea, at the discretion of the Captain and after receiving an appropriate safety briefing. Particular consideration must be given to the safety of children using these areas when vessel is underway.

In no circumstances can rails or bulwarks less than 600mm (sailing vessel requirement) be accepted. It is probable that vessels with low guardrails will require more harnesses than the 2 mandated by the code.