



MECAL TECHNICAL NOTE

MTN 4-1

Issued by the *MECAL* Technical Committee

Open RHIBs - Restricted night time operation

Application: Open RHIBs (those without substantial enclosure)

1.0 Introduction

The attached Matrix has been prepared by the MCA to allow assessment of open RHIBs for restricted night time operation. It is intended that this matrix will appear in the final harmonised code & can be considered for MECAL coded vessels in advance of publication of the new Code.

Acceptance Matrix for Restricted Category 3 without Permanent Substantial Enclosure

	Daylight & Favourable weather		Proposed RESTRICTED Category 3 247 (without Permanent Substantial Enclosure)			Un-restricted	
			Favourable weather ¹ &	Favourable weather ¹ &	No Weather Restriction		
			Seasonal Restrictions ²	NO "Seasonal Restrictions" ²	NO "Seasonal Restrictions" ²		
Up to 20 n.miles	From an Nominated Departure Point CATEGORY 5	From a Safe Haven CATEGORY 4	NOT PERMITTED	NOT PERMITTED	NOT PERMITTED	CATEGORY 3	Up to 20 n.miles
Up to 10 n.miles			[Wearing of Full Spray Protection during Darkness Wearing of full PPE]	[All vessels to be twin screwed with totally independent systems Full Risk Assessment]	NOT PERMITTED		UP to 10 n.miles
Up to 3 n.miles	CATEGORY 6		[No special requirements]	[Wearing of Full Spray Protection during Darkness Wearing of full PPE]	[All vessels to be twin screwed with totally independent systems Full Risk Assessment]		Uo to 3 n.miles

¹ **Favourable Weather** – means wind, sea and visibility conditions which are deemed by the skipper to be safe for a small vessel to operate within the limits applied to it, OR, in any other case means conditions existing throughout a voyage or excursion in which the effects either individually or in combination of swell, height of waves, strength of wind and visibility cause no hazard to the safety of the vessel, including handling ability

² **Seasonal Restrictions** – Between 1 April and the 30 October