



IRC Congress 2014

Report From The IRC Technical Committee

1. IRC Activity

The total number of boats issued with IRC certificates in 2005 to 2013 and to 31st August 2014 is shown below.

Country	Continent	Region	Certificate Year										
			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013 to 31/8/13	2014 to 31/8/14
Great Britain	Europe	North	1878	1839	2043	2029	1806	1766	1702	1551	1378	1327	1370
France	Europe	North	904	966	924	1074	937	975	1016	913	859	787	772
Italy	Europe	North	763	840	931	962	840	905	846	814	716	590	562
Australia	Oceania	South	527	578	570	528	535	544	525	498	478	323	319
Turkey	Europe	North	260	280	292	327	342	360	363	404	389	278	276
Ireland	Europe	North	389	402	429	455	443	423	386	355	321	315	327
Japan	Asia	North	1	33	89	122	221	258	276	298	313	303	293
USA	N America	North	549	589	610	611	488	464	380	324	273	252	245
Netherlands	Europe	North	58	54	152	162	172	146	138	149	151	146	133
SE Asia (MAS/SIN/THA)	Asia	South	50	48	49	64	72	80	77	74	129	54	47
Spain	Europe	North	934	155	164	165	167	159	169	134	128	120	105
Hong Kong	Asia	South	76	85	94	120	93	93	97	94	96	76	72
Chile	S America	South						0	89	68	79	2	0
Belgium	Europe	North	79	91	99	100	87	74	76	64	65	62	68
China	Asia	North	0	0	0	0	37	40	46	93	64	34	57
South Africa	Africa	South	91	91	84	76	63	55	49	52	64	30	30
Greece	Europe	North	0	56	109	101	105	117	104	80	63	60	72
UAE/Gulf States	Africa	South	67	56	79	67	72	68	53	61	60	8	14
Canada	N America	North	22	24	23	32	51	60	82	67	55	54	37
Malta	Europe	North	49	42	47	65	64	66	62	65	54	51	53
Germany	Europe	North	16	24	39	64	65	53	56	47	46	44	33
Israel	Europe	North	27	27	21	23	23	35	34	43	42	32	28
New Zealand	Oceania	South	15	142	97	94	78	55	46	37	39	18	29
Bulgaria	Europe	North				41	42	39	29	29	35	33	25
Brazil	S America	South									34		53
Mauritius	Asia	North									27		12
Uruguay	S America	South				47	45	45	27	27	24	12	0
Finland	Europe	North				13	34	40	37	22	20	18	16
Iceland	Europe	North	18	14	15	14	12	13	10	13	12	12	13
Croatia	Europe	North				15	20	16	10	15	12	8	6
Argentina	S America	South	0	50	90	37	27	24	13	16	11	0	0
Philippines	Asia	South	19	13	13	12	13	13	14	9	10	0	3
Norway	Europe	North				8	9	16	11	2	7	7	0
Colombia	S America	South							21	16	0	0	0
World & Other (<5)	N/A	N/A	164	125	114	74	215	49	86	98	79	67	59
Totals:			6956	6624	7177	7502	7178	7051	6930	6532	6133	5123	5129
As % of previous year:				95.2	108.3	104.5	95.7	98.2	98.3	94.3	93.9		100.1

Between the 2012 and 2013 Certificate Years, there has been a further decrease in the number of boats rated of 399 boats, or 6.1%, essentially numerically identical to the previous year's 398 boats (5.7%). While the continued generally uncertain state of the global economy during 2012 is plainly relevant to this, the Technical Committee still considers that wider and more fundamental issues relating to changes in the overall pattern of how owners go racing are also relevant. Encouragingly however, boat numbers to the end of August 2014 are very slightly higher than the same point in



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2013. Within this, Great Britain, China, Ireland and Greece have seen noticeable increases while Italy, Canada, Spain and France have seen further falls. It is suspected that economic reasons are largely responsible for most of the falls.

At the end of 2013, 26 countries on all 6 continents had fleets of 25 boats or more, satisfying the requirements of ISAF Regulation 12.2(e)(i). At the end of August 2014, 23 countries had achieved this level with the likelihood of a further 3 by the end of the year. At the end of 2013, 33 countries had fleets of 5 or more boats.

The table below shows the comparison of the numbers of boats rated at 31st August for the period 2006, to 2014:

Country	Boats at end of August									Change 31/08/13 to 31/08/14	Comment
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		
Great Britain	1785	1952	1987	1749	1723	1675	1526	1327	1370	43	
China					31	31	63	34	57	23	
Ireland	396	415	447	433	409	393	355	315	327	12	
Greece	43	101	98	100	108	95	73	60	72	12	
New Zealand	36	142	49	50	33	29	27	18	29	11	South
Belgium	80	89	95	80	66	75	58	62	68	6	
UAE	21	56	26	12	10	18	12	8	14	6	South
Philippines	0	13	1	7	8	7	3	0	3	3	South
Malta	41	41	57	57	58	51	59	51	53	2	
Iceland	14	15	14	12	13	10	13	12	13	1	
South Africa	37	91	53	47	31	32	30	30	30	0	South
Argentina	39	56	27	27	7	1	0	0	0	0	South
Colombia							2	0	0	0	South
Portugal	130	85	100	56	23	13	0	0	0	0	
Sweden	1	3	30	28	35	18	1	0	0	0	
Denmark					17	9	1	1	0	-1	
Turkey	212	237	249	236	261	276	302	278	276	-2	
Finland	1	3	13	33	38	36	22	18	16	-2	
Croatia	0	1	8	15	16	6	8	8	6	-2	
Chile						40	0	2	0	-2	South
Australia	328	285	357	341	344	367	361	323	319	-4	South
Hong Kong	58	85	65	70	69	75	76	76	72	-4	South
Israel	24	19	19	20	27	30	35	32	28	-4	
USA	562	574	584	449	432	358	306	252	245	-7	
SE Asia	35	116	57	54	53	55	54	54	47	-7	South
Norway	0	0	8	8	14	10	2	7	0	-7	
Bulgaria	0	1	38	39	35	27	28	33	25	-8	
Japan	14	81	117	208	252	263	277	303	293	-10	
Germany	17	38	51	57	50	55	42	44	33	-11	
Uruguay	0	21	39	33	32	1	0	12	0	-12	



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Country	Boats at end of August									Change 31/08/13 to 31/08/14	Comment
	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		
Netherlands	50	129	134	153	136	133	148	146	133	-13	
France	829	858	980	860	889	933	816	787	772	-15	
Spain	141	154	156	146	151	159	129	120	105	-15	
Canada	25	22	30	49	59	82	67	54	37	-17	
Italy	604	685	766	624	711	657	651	590	562	-28	
World & Other (<5)	56	36	51	138	111	113	86	67	59	-8	
Brazil									53	N/A	South
Mauritius									12	N/A	South
Totals:	7584	6404	6706	6191	6252	6133	5633	5124	5129	5	
		84.4	104.7	92.3	101.0	98.1	91.8	91.0	98.8		

The IRC Technical Committee is encouraged by the stabilisation this year in the number of boats rated under IRC.

2. Measurement

No international measurer seminars have been held during 2014.

Regrettably, the application to ISAF in 2013 for International Measurer was declined. One further application for International Measurer has been made this year.

The opportunity was taken at this year's Brewin Dolphin Commodores' Cup to invite measurers from France and the USA to be members of the Equipment Inspection team. Additionally, measurers from Great Britain and Italy were jointly involved in Equipment Inspection at the Maxi Yacht Cup and Swan Cup. All of these events proved valuable in furthering common standards of measurement. Further exercises of this sort are planned for the future.

3. Technical

The Technical Committee has been working this year on a wide ranging agenda. Much of this is detail issues which will only result in minor changes to IRC Rules and/or rating calculations although one or two projects may result in more significant changes. A number of these projects are longer term in nature aimed at improving IRC treatment of specific technical issues. Most of the work has been conducted by E-Mail with a formal 2 day meeting in London in July. It is also intended that the Technical Committee will meet at the IRC Congress.