



IRC Congress 2011

Report From The IRC Technical Committee

1. IRC Activity

The total number of boats issued with IRC certificates in 2005 to 2010 and to 31st August 2011 is shown below.

Country	Continent	Region	Certificate Year								Endorsed %	2011 to 31/8/11
			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 to 31/8/10	2010			
Great Britain	Europe	North	1878	1839	2043	2029	1806	1723	1766	49	1675	
France	Europe	North	904	966	924	1074	937	889	975	9	933	
Italy	Europe	North	763	840	931	962	840	711	905	2	657	
Australia	Oceania	South	527	578	570	528	535	344	544	92	367	
USA	N America	North	549	589	610	611	488	432	464	89	358	
Ireland	Europe	North	389	402	429	455	443	409	423	82	393	
Turkey	Europe	North	260	280	292	327	342	261	360	51	276	
Japan	Asia	North	1	33	89	122	221	252	258	45	263	
Spain	Europe	North	934	155	164	165	167	151	159	27	159	
Netherlands	Europe	North	58	54	152	162	172	136	146	28	133	
Greece	Europe	North	0	56	109	101	105	108	117	64	95	
Hong Kong	Asia	South	76	85	94	120	93	69	93	30	75	
Thailand	Asia	South	50	48	49	64	72	22	80	11	23	
Belgium	Europe	North	79	91	99	100	87	66	74	11	75	
UAE/Gulf States	Africa	South	67	56	79	67	72	10	68	32	18	
Malta	Europe	North	49	42	47	65	64	58	66	14	51	
Canada	N America	North	22	24	23	32	51	59	60	93	82	
South Africa	Africa	South	91	91	84	76	63	31	55	89	32	
New Zealand	Oceania	South	15	142	97	94	78	33	55	85	29	
Germany	Europe	North	16	24	39	64	65	50	53	36	55	
Uruguay	S America	South				47	45	32	45	89	1	
Finland	Europe	North				13	34	38	40	93	36	
China	Asia	North	0	0	0	0	37	31	40	3	31	
Bulgaria	Europe	North				41	42	35	39	92	27	
Sweden	Europe	North				28	37	35	37	92	18	
Israel	Europe	North	27	27	21	23	23	27	35	17	30	
Singapore	Asia	South	29	45	41	41	37	18	29	52	30	
Argentina	S America	South	0	50	90	37	27	7	24	92	1	
Portugal	Europe	North	127	133	95	101	56	23	23	9	13	
Malaysia	Asia	South	19	23	27	23	23	13	21	19	12	
Romania	Europe	North							18	0	32	
Denmark	Europe	North						17	17	59	9	
Norway	Europe	North				8	9	14	16	81	10	
Croatia	Europe	North				15	20	16	16	0	6	
Iceland	Europe	North	18	14	15	14	12	13	13	15	10	
Philippines	Asia	South	19	13	13	12	13	8	13	23	7	
Maurice Island	Oceania	South				9	6	1	12	0	4	
Brazil	S America	South							7	71	0	
Switzerland	Europe	North				20	16	2	3	100	6	
Korea	Asia	North					9	3	3	33	4	
Bermuda	N America	North	0	4	8	9	3	1	1	100	0	
Chile	S America	South							0	N/A	40	
Russia	Europe	North	0	16	7	7	7	0	0	N/A	0	
World & Other (<5)	N/A	N/A	164	125	114	74	215	111	49	20	113	
		Totals:	7131	6845	7355	7740	7372	6259	7222	44	6189	
		As % of previous year:		96.0	107.5	105.2	95.2		98.0		98.9	



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Between the 2009 and 2010 Certificate Years, there was a further small decrease in the number of boats rated of 150 boats, or 2.0%. Noting again the continued poor state of the global economy during 2010, this is unsurprising. It is noteworthy however that against this trend, both the French and Italian fleets have shown some growth. Growth also continued in some of the newer IRC countries, notably JPN, TUR, GRE, ISR and CAN.

As requested at the 2010 IRC Congress, data is now included for the % of Endorsed certificates in each country. Overall, 44% of boats held Endorsed certificates in 2010 with the number in each country ranging from 0% to 100%.

For reference, the latest available data at 31st August 2011 is also shown. Care should be taken in reading this data, particularly for South countries which are only 3 months into their year. The notable statistic within this is that both Chile and Romania have this year achieved fleets in excess of 25 boats.

At the end of 2010, 27 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 2011, 25 countries had achieved this level with the likelihood of a further 4 by the end of the year. At the end of 2010, 38 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 2011:

Country	Boats at 31/08/06	Boats at 31/08/07	Boats at 31/08/08	Boats at 31/08/09	Boats at 31/08/10	Boats at 31/08/11	Change 31/08/10 to 31/08/11	Comment
France	829	858	980	860	889	933	44	
Chile						40	40	South
Romania					0	32	32	
Australia	328	285	357	341	344	367	23	South
Canada	25	22	30	49	59	82	23	
Turkey	212	237	249	236	261	276	15	
Singapore	21	45	25	29	18	30	12	South
Japan	14	81	117	208	252	263	11	
Belgium	80	89	95	80	66	75	9	
Spain	141	154	156	146	151	159	8	
UAE	21	56	26	12	10	18	8	South
Hong Kong	58	85	65	70	69	75	6	South
Germany	17	38	51	57	50	55	5	
Switzerland	2	10	18	15	2	6	4	
Israel	24	19	19	20	27	30	3	
Maurice Island	0	0	8	4	1	4	3	South
Korea				9	3	4	1	
South Africa	37	91	53	47	31	32	1	South
Thailand	10	48	19	14	22	23	1	South
Brazil						0	0	South
China					31	31	0	
Russia	14	3	5	3	0	0	0	
Bermuda	4	7	9	2	1	0	-1	
Malaysia	4	23	13	11	13	12	-1	South
Philippines	0	13	1	7	8	7	-1	South
Finland	1	3	13	33	38	36	-2	
Iceland	14	15	14	12	13	10	-3	
Netherlands	50	129	134	153	136	133	-3	



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Country	Boats at 31/08/06	Boats at 31/08/07	Boats at 31/08/08	Boats at 31/08/09	Boats at 31/08/10	Boats at 31/08/11	Change 31/08/10 to 31/08/11	Comment
New Zealand	36	142	49	50	33	29	-4	South
Norway	0	0	8	8	14	10	-4	
Argentina	39	56	27	27	7	1	-6	South
Malta	41	41	57	57	58	51	-7	
Bulgaria	0	1	38	39	35	27	-8	
Denmark					17	9	-8	
Croatia	0	1	8	15	16	6	-10	
Portugal	130	85	100	56	23	13	-10	
Greece	43	101	98	100	108	95	-13	
Ireland	396	415	447	433	409	393	-16	
Sweden	1	3	30	28	35	18	-17	
Uruguay	0	21	39	33	32	1	-31	South
Great Britain	1785	1952	1987	1749	1723	1675	-48	
Italy	604	685	766	624	711	657	-54	
USA	562	574	584	449	432	358	-74	
World & Other (<5)	56	36	51	138	111	113	2	
Totals:	5599	6424	6746	6224	6259	6189	-70	
		14.7	5.0	-7.7	0.6		-1.1	

We believe that the decline in certificate numbers in established IRC countries continues to reflect the current economic conditions.

We are again encouraged by the growth during 2010 in newer IRC countries, CHI, ROM, CAN. It is also noteworthy that, against other trends, the number of certificated boats in Italy, France and Turkey has again increased during 2011.

In overall summary, noting the stability of numbers of rated boats at the end of August for the past three years, notwithstanding the global economic climate, IRC numbers remain stable.

2. Measurement

The Istanbul international measurement seminar reported last year was successfully completed with Rob Taylor from the ISAF Technical Office as co-presenter and used the measurer training material jointly developed with the RYA and ISAF.

No international measurer seminars have been held during 2011.

The IRC submission to ISAF to permit IRC measurers to become ISAF International Measurers was deferred for further study. We are optimistic that the Working Party will recommend acceptance at this year's ISAF Conference.

Based on our experiences to date, work has also continued in co-operation with others towards the continued development of the Equipment Rules of Sailing. A number of submissions to this year's ISAF Conference have resulted.

3. Technical

The changes to the IRC treatment of smaller lighter boats forecast last year were implemented for 2011. Further work during 2011 suggests that further changes will be implemented for 2012.



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The PDF portfolio linking IRC Rules with the Equipment Rules of Sailing is now published on www.ircrating.org. We believe that this will be of considerable benefit to all.

The Technical Committee has been working this year on an agenda including 34 different subjects. Many of these are detail issues and will only result in minor changes to IRC Rules and/or rating calculations. Much of this work has been conducted by E-Mail with a formal 2 day meeting in London in July.