



IRC – Maximum size for a Storm and Heavy Weather Jib

Under IRC the maximum number of headsails carried on board is rated, however excluded from the number of headsails are one storm jib and/or one heavy weather jib as defined by World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations.

For information, and to help boats to check the area of sails using the data on their IRC Certificate, the IRC Rating Authority calculates the maximum heavy weather jib area from the following formula:

Maximum Heavy Weather Jib area (m²) = 0.135 * (Forestay length² – J²)

i.e. 0.135 multiplied by (Forestay Length squared – J squared) with the answer being in square metres.

Maximum Storm Jib area (m²) = 0.05 * (Forestay length² – J²)

i.e. 0.05 multiplied by (Forestay Length squared – J squared) with the answer being in square metres.

The actual area of a boat's heavy weather or storm jib is calculated using the formula in Offshore Special Regulations 4.27.3 and 4.27.4.

Area (m²) = (0.255 * HLU * (HLP + 2 * HHW))

Both of the above areas are rounded to two decimal places.

NOTE

While the formula above for the calculation of maximum storm and heavy weather jib areas is a close approximation to the formula in Offshore Special Regulations for the calculation of the maximum storm and heavy weather jib area (area not greater than 5% (storm jib) or 13.5% (heavy weather jib) of the height of the foretriangle squared), it is not identical for the reason that IRC data does not include height of the foretriangle. The IRC formula above may therefore give a slightly different answer to that in the World Sailing OSRs. Compliance therefore using the formula above does NOT necessarily confirm compliance with World Sailing OSR storm or heavy weather jib requirements and if the areas are close, the height of the foretriangle should be determined and used in the maximum area calculation.

Updated January 2024