



AMERICA'S CUP CLASS

CONFIDENTIAL INTERPRETATION No 6

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In response to the following:

Regarding the surface of the mast, are there any prohibitions or restrictions that would prevent:

1. *the use of textured surfaces, riblets, or similar treatment of the mast's surface with the purpose or effect of improving aerodynamic characteristics, or*
2. *the use of small holes in the mast's surface with the purpose or effect of improving aerodynamic characteristics, provided that the function of such holes is not to reduce the torsional stiffness of the mast.*

INTERPRETATION

ACC Rule 25.8 states:

- 25.8 A mast is prohibited if it:
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- (c) has holes or joints whose function is to reduce the torsional stiffness of the mast, even if filled or covered with rule legal materials;
 - (g) has slots, slats or similar devices, or other contrivances, whose primary function is to enhance the aerodynamic performance, except the following which are permitted:
 - (i) *fittings to attach sails and rigging, etc.;*
 - (ii) *Slots and holes for specific purposes such as halyard exits or fittings etc. are permitted however they shall be no larger than required to fulfil their intended purpose;*
 - (iii) *local covers or normal fairings over fittings;*
 - (iv) *a spinnaker pole butt track as permitted in **ACC Rule 25.9**.*

The Oxford Dictionary defines "contrivance" as "the action of contriving something" or "an ingenious device or scheme".

1. A textured surface, riblets, or similar treatment of the mast's surface would constitute "an ingenious device or scheme" whose primary purpose is declared as improving aerodynamic characteristics and accordingly is not permitted.
2. Holes in the surface of the mast are only permitted for specific purposes such as halyard exits or fittings. Holes which are not for one of the specified purposes listed are deemed to be "an ingenious device or scheme" whose primary purpose is declared as improving aerodynamic characteristics and accordingly are not permitted.

END

This interpretation is made by the Measurement Committee in accordance with Rule 3.2 of Version 5.0 of the America's Cup Class Rule.

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