



Frequently Asked Questions Obtaining an ORC Certificate

Q: There seem to be 2 types of ORC certificates - which one does Vic-Maui require?

A: Vic-Maui will accept either *ORC Club* or *ORC International* certificates.

The *ORC International* certificate requires full measurement by a certified measurer for hull, rig and sails. *ORC Club* mainly relies on hull, rig and sail dimension information provided by the owner.

Q: How do I go about getting an ORC Rating Certificate?

A: Owners wanting to pursue an *ORC International* certificate should contact ORC Canada at ratings@orc-canada.org or US Sailing at offshore@ussailing.org.

ORC Club certificates are obtained from your appropriate national body; ORC Canada or US Sailing office in a two-stage process. US vessels must apply through US Sailing.

First, complete the on-line application form by following one of the links below:

ORC Club On-line Application at [ORC Club On-line Application](#), or

ORC Club Application Button at [ORC-Canada Home](#), or

Start Your ORC Application Button at [US Sailing - Offshore](#)

You will be asked to supply basic information about your vessel such as model, age, propeller, rig and sail dimensions. It will greatly assist your application to accumulate this information prior to filling in the application. Much of the required information will be listed on other rating certificates for your boat, but beware of differences in definitions and abbreviations (eg; LPG is the same as LP, JL is the same as LLJ). If there is any doubt, please ask your sailmaker to confirm your sail measurements. For reference the ORC rule are available at www.orc.org/rules.

Specific questions about the process can be addressed directly to ORC at ratings@orc-canada.org. or offshore@ussailing.org

Q: What happens after I submit the *ORC Club* application?

A: The appropriate national ratings officer will contact you and help to complete the application and vet the information. After gathering the data that reflects your vessel's as-sailed condition, an ORC "Test" certificate will be forwarded via email. Please review this document carefully as the person in charge is responsible for its contents.

Once the "Test" certificate has been reviewed and agreed upon [this might take a couple of iterations], you will be directed by email to remit the certificate fee via ORC's on-line payment processor at [ORC in Canada - Renewals](#). For US vessels the process will be directed by US Sailing. On receipt of the remittance a final certificate will be uploaded to the ORC database for use by race organizers and a copy forwarded for your records

Q: Am I required to have my boat measured?

A: All boats wanting an *ORC International* certificate require a full measurement that may come with a cost [yard and/or measurers fees]. But it is possible that a sistership has been measured before and the data exists in the ORC database.

In addition to owner-supplied measurements on *ORC Club* certificates, ORC Canada or US Sailing may require confirmation of measurements of your boat's freeboard, rig, and sail measurements. They may also ask that you have your sailmaker forward to the rating officer the measurements of your sails. This data is used to confirm your boat's displacement, stability and speed potential. It is in an owner's interest to have as much measurement as possible as the ORC VPP model makes assumptions on incomplete data that will likely make a rating less precise.

Most other dimension information required for the *ORC Club* certificate may be owner-declared or from sistership data in the ORC database or other publicly sourced information

Owners should take note of the recent changes to declaration requirements regarding symmetric and asymmetric spinnakers and sails set flying.

Q: What is involved with getting measured?

A: Measurement is not as difficult as many believe. The hardest part of measurement is getting the boat prepared into the required measurement trim. This requires certain equipment (such as loose gear, stores, food, tools, sails, anchors, life-raft) to be removed and other equipment (such as running rigging, poles, permanent furniture) to be placed in specified locations. A checklist of measurement trim preparation is provided in Section B4 of the International Measurement System linked above.

Please note: Water tanks and holding tank should be empty. Fuel tanks should be either empty, or totally full with no free surface.

Actual measurement includes measuring the freeboard at designated locations and stability measurement involves suspending weights from spinnaker poles extended out each side and measuring the boat's incline angle. Measurers will also spot check rig dimensions. The process will take about 2.5 hours if the boat is properly prepared.

Q: How do I arrange for measurement?

A: ORC Canada or US Sailing will put you in contact with a local measurer and a suitable time and location can be mutually arranged.

Q: What if I have a 'non-standard' boat?

A: Boats for which there is no standard hull in the ORC database will require hull lines information. Owners in this situation should contact their yacht designer and ask them to digitally submit designer hull lines to ORC. If designer hull lines are not available, detailed hull measurement may be required, at the owner's expense. Boats in this situation and not wanting the expense may want to consider entering Lahaina Class. Please note "non-standard" racing vessels should allow many months for this process; as producing a validated offset file can be a difficult process.

Q: What if I already have an ORC certificate?

A: Boats which already hold ORC certificates will require current a certificate for the race.

Boats that have made hull or rig modifications, or adding new sails, will also require a new certificate and may require measurement.

Q: What is the timeline for getting an ORC certificate?

A: The Notice of Race requires that you submit a final ORC certificate in early June. This provides adequate time for error correction and revision.

In practical terms and to ensure the process has been started, you need to start the on-line application to ORC early in the year of the race, and submit a "test" certificate to Vic-Maui by the entry deadline.

If there are no inconsistencies with your data entry, you should receive ORC final certificate within 2 weeks after submission of measurement data. If there are inconsistencies, you will be contacted directly by email.

Q: What is a good resource for my vessel information?

ORC's Sailor Services website is valuable source of sistership data at www.orc.org. It is free to register. See the Sailor Services Quick Guide for more information. You can run your own test certificates comparing sail selections and crew sizes. Test certificates are paid for using purchased credits. Please note credits purchased on Sailor Services cannot be used to remit payment for a final certificate.