

## Proposed change to IOM Class Rule F3.4

The IOM NCA for Spain proposes the following class rule change:

F3.4 Current wording:

### DIMENSIONS

minimum

*Spar between lower point and upper point ignoring features permitted by F.3.2(b):*  
diameter..... 10.6 mm

F3.4 Proposed wording:

**Spar between lower point and upper point** ignoring features permitted by F.3.2(b):  
diameter..... 10.0 mm

Background:

The current minimum mast diameter permitted by the class rules means that to be mildly competitive the vast majority of IOM owners are forced to buy their mast spar materials from an extremely limited number of suppliers, often abroad. This generally means postage costs that are often more expensive than the mast material itself, except when very large quantities are ordered (not always possible unless your club has a lot of members). It seems illogical to persist in maintaining a minimum mast diameter of 10.6mm when only a few suppliers are capable of providing IOM owners with competitive material which abides by this rule. The alternative 'off the shelf' standard aluminium tubing for ones local do-it-yourself shop normally means stepping up to 12 or 12.5mm diameter tubing to comply with the current class rule (11mm tubing is not widely available), and with a relatively thick wall there is an unacceptable weight penalty.

10mm diameter aluminium tubing however is easily available at many outlets as it is a standard size used by many industries in many parts of the world. From our (limited) research, it seems that this tubing is almost always in agreement with class rules F3.1(a), F3.2 (b)(1), other parts of the current class rule F3.4 (with regard to tolerance and wall thickness) and F4.1. We believe that a change to this rule, allowing a minimum mast diameter of 10mm would allow owners to use locally sourced materials, easily available at DIY shops, hence reducing considerably the cost.

It has been said that one of the benefits of the IOM class is 'low cost' (relative to other radio controlled sailing classes we presume.) One perceived disadvantage of this class rule change could be the advent of new stiff, lightweight 10mm diameter masts developed and sold at a higher than present cost by the current suppliers of 11.1mm tube (the 'standard' in the IOM world today it seems). However, we strongly believe that any disadvantages of a few IOM owners using this new material would be easily offset by the advantages to thousands of other IOM owners in many parts of the world.