



New CE boat design categories

The 18th of January, european boat design categories are changing.

New boat design categories only refer to meteorological conditions to avoid any confusion.

Catégories de conception CE				
Boat design categories	Wind force Beaufort scale	↔ average wind speed (10 min)	Gust	Significant / Maximum wave height
Catégorie A	Up to 9 incl	47 knots	~ 61 knots	5 m / 10 m
Catégorie B	Up to 8 incl	40 knots	~ 52 knots	4 m / 8 m
Catégorie C	Up to 6 incl	27 knots	~ 35 knots	2 m / 4 m
Catégorie D	Up to 4 incl	16 knots	~ 23 knots	Up to 0,5 m

Note that:

- The significant wave height is the average height of the highest third of the observed waves and only for the sea wind, that is to say excluding the shore impact, current, etc. Over 24 hours, the expected height of the highest wave can reach 2.35 times the significant height, more than 4 m for category C ...

- Maximum wind is expressed on the Beaufort scale and corresponds to the average 10 minutes speed, 10 m above the sea; gusts generally represent 1.3 times the average speed.

- Be cautious :

"Better to be in port regretting not being at sea than being at sea regretting not being in port! "

- Do not take the sea when conditions close to the limit are announced. The reality may exceed forecasts. A damage may complicate the situation.

- If weather conditions get stronger and approach the limits of your boat design category, do not hesitate to divert to the nearest port.



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BEAUFORT SCALE

DOC N°558 WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

APPENDIX 1.5

Beaufort number	Descriptive term	Wind speed equivalents		Specifications for observations on board ship (open sea)
		Metres/second	Knots	
0	calm	0-0.2	<1	Sea like a mirror
1	Light air	0.3-1.5	1-3	Ripples with the appearance of scales are formed, but without foam crests
2	Light breeze	1.6-3.3	4-6	Small wavelets, still short but more pronounced; crests have a glassy appearance and do not break
3	Gentle breeze	3.4-5.4	7-10	Large wavelets; crests begin to break; foam of glassy appearance; perhaps scattered white horses
4	Moderate breeze	5.5-7.9	11-16	Small waves, becoming longer; fairly frequent white horses
5	Fresh breeze	8.0-10.7	17-21	Moderate waves, taking a more pronounced long form; many white horses are formed (chance of some spray)
6	Strong breeze	10.8-13.8	22-27	Large waves begin to form; the white foam crests are more extensive everywhere (probably some spray)
7	Near gale	13.9-17.1	28-33	Sea heaps up and white foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks along the direction of the wind
8	Gale	17.2-20.7	34-40	Moderately high waves of greater length; edges of crests begin to break into the spindrift; the foam is blown in well-marked streaks along the direction of the wind
9	Strong gale	20.8-24.4	41-47	High waves; dense streaks of foam along the direction of the wind; crests of waves begin to topple, tumble and roll over; spray may affect visibility
10	Storm	24.5-28.4	48-55	Very high waves with long overhanging crests; the resulting foam, in great patches, is blown in dense white streaks along the direction of the wind; on the whole, the surface of the sea takes a white appearance; the tumbling of the sea becomes heavy and shock-like; visibility affected
11	Violent storm	28.5-32.6	56-63	exceptionally high waves (small and medium-sized ships might be for a time lost to view behind the waves); the sea is completely covered with long white patches of foam flying along the direction of the wind; everywhere the edges of the wave crests are blown into front; visibility affected
12	Hurricane	32.7 and over	64 and over	The air is filled with foam and spray; sea completely white with driving spray; visibility very seriously affected

