



Request for Interpretation No. 38

of

AC Class Rule Version 1.4: December 8th 2015

Rule References:

20.2 **Wing spars** shall be constructed in accordance with the drawings and specifications listed in Appendix E. The drawings represent minimum average of the rolls' fiber areal weights and average resin content, core thickness, and core density permitted. Laminates resulting in greater fiber weight, resin content, core density, or core thickness than specified in Appendix E are permitted.

20.3 Soft aerodynamic surfaces of the **wing** shall be covered with CorTuff® 300 gauge film as detailed in Appendix E. Alternative materials that match stiffness and weight may be approved by the **Measurement Committee** via an **interpretation**.

Appendix E

Background:

Rules 20.2 and 20.3 refer to "drawings and specifications listed in Appendix E". There do not appear to be any specifications included in appendix E at this time. Rules Page 35 is blank. There is an outline drawing "APPENDIX E – WING DIAGRAM" on page 36. There does not appear to be any additional information contained in the drawings on the drive.

We also note that the arrangement, layout and structural design of the wing outside the D-spar is the responsibility of individual teams.

Questions:

1. Does an area covered in rigid or semi-rigid material (e.g. thin carbon fibre laminate) constitute a 'soft aerodynamic surfaces' as specified in Rule 20.3?
2. Is it permitted to have access panels in the CorTuff covering for inspection, maintenance and service of internal structures and mechanisms?
3. Is it permitted to have inspection panels of rigid or semi-rigid materials (e.g. thin carbon fibre laminate)?
4. Is it permitted to have inspection panels of flexible material (e.g. sail-cloth, mylar etc.) other than CorTuff?
5. Is there any limit on the area and location of inspection panels?
6. Is the area within 'Region F' on the WING DIAGRAM shown in Appendix E subject to any limitations in the context of the above questions?

Notes:

In the context of the above it is understood that Rule 12.11 must always be respected.

Reference to CorTuff includes all similar materials approved by the measurement committee.

Interpretation:

1. No. The Measurement Committee reserves the right to determine the difference between soft and rigid using appropriate tests. For general guidance, a material is considered soft if capable of folding without damage.
2. Yes, provided those panels serve no other purpose than access for inspection, maintenance, and service of internal structure or systems and are sized appropriately for access only. Inspection panels shall be no lighter than the CorTuff they replace and may be made from any material in compliance with AC Class Rule 18.
3. See answer 2.
4. See answer 2.
5. See answer 2.
6. Yes, region F is subject to the same limitations as other regions of the wing, except for the constraints on its shape relating to the IGES surface described in rule 12.3

END

Issued by the America's Cup Measurement Committee on August 10, 2016