ORC Measurement Q & A

Who issues ORC certificates?

US Sailing is the ORC national rating authority for the USA, and ORC Canada is the ORC Rating authority for Canada. Both issue all ORC certificate products: ORC Club, ORC International (ORCi), and ORC Double Handed and ORC Non-Spinnaker certificates.

Are measurements required for ORC certificates?

For ORC Club No, but for ORCi, Yes.

If I have an ORR or ORR-EZ certificate can this be used to get an ORC certificate?

Yes. ORR Partial-measured certificates can be used for ORC Club, and (most) ORR full-measured certificates can be translated to ORCi. ORR-EZ certificates can be used as a data source for ORC Club.

If there is compatibility in the systems, why get measured?

Because measurement gets you assured data that is used in generating an accurate ORC rating certificate. Without measurement the rating authority relies on sistership data that has the least favorable outcome to your rating.

For example, its highly likely that the actual measured displacement for a series-built production boat is quite a bit higher than the lowest unmeasured value, resulting in typical rating differences of up to several sec/mi.

Does submitting measured data also require ordering an ORCi certificate?

Not necessarily. ORCi certificates require not only full measurement data, but also ORC-approval for the quality of the offset file used to describe the boat’s hull and appendages. For most boats, even old ones, there are measured files available that with some digital clean-up can be made ORCi-approved.

However, for many other older boat types only ORC Club-level hull files are available and of sufficient quality for ORC Club certificates. The measurers and US Sailing can make known what boat types fit in either category.

I'm interested because there's a rating benefit. How do I prepare my boat for measurement?
See the attached sheets on measurement preparation for the boat measurement and spar measurements. While both are not required, measurement of each can result in modest rating benefits of 0.5-1.0 sec/mi for spars, and up to several sec/mi for boats with measured freeboards and an inclination.

**OK, I am interested in measurement and want to do it, now what?**

Send Tim Prophit at BYC and Jeremy Thompson at PHYC an email to let them know. They will create lists of who wants a spar or a boat measurement, or both, and what the anticipated timelines will be in April and May.

**How long does this take?**

Mast measurement takes 15-30 minutes, and if the boat is prepared properly measuring freeboards and doing the inclination takes typically 2-3 hours, with the remaining measures taking about 1 hour.

**What about sails? Can they be measured on site as well?**

Yes, if needed and if there is a suitable space to do this. Alternatively, sails can be either measured by your sailmaker or provided by them as their as-built data. Dimensions are needed for the Main, largest Headsail and largest Spinnaker. If there is a Code 0, dimensions for this sail are also needed, as well as those of a Headsail set Flying (ORC term for an ORR Large Roach Headsail or ‘Tweener’). Forms for these can be provided by a Measurer.

If there are no new sails from the past ORR certificate, then no sail measurements are needed except for Code 0’s.

**When all the data is collected, then what?**

Once all the data is gathered, a test certificate will be generated to review. Once approved by the measurer and owner, this is sent digitally to US Sailing for certificate processing. Their stated processing time is 5-10 days, but is often faster than this.

**Who is doing the measurements, and how much will all this cost?**

US Sailing-certified measurers Dobbs Davis and Dave LaMere will conduct the measurements, along with Spencer Channell who is a measurer in training. The fee for measurement of a mast is $50 and $15/foot for the remainder of the measurements needed for an ORCi certificate. Their travel costs will be split equally among all participants in a measurement session.

The cost of the certificate is set by US Sailing and is in the schedule shown below:
With all these measurements taken, do I have a choice of ordering a Club or ORCi certificate?

Yes, the measurements provided will generate the same ratings whether in ORCi or ORC Club branding. However, some BYC Cove Island course entries may require ORCi certificates.

Resources:

Measurement sign-up: Tim Prophit (BYC): timprophit@gmail.com
Jeremy Thompson (PHYC): jeremy_thompson@comcast.net

2021 ORC rules: www.orc.org/rules

ORC Club certificate explanation: www.orc.org/index.asp?id=23

ORC International certificate explanation: www.orc.org/index.asp?id=24

US Sailing ORC webpage: www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/orc

New ORC certificates from ORR-EZ or no prior certificate: www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/request-a-rating

Transfer from previous ORR to ORC: www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/orc/orr-to-orc-transfer/

ORC Canada: ratings@orc-canada.org