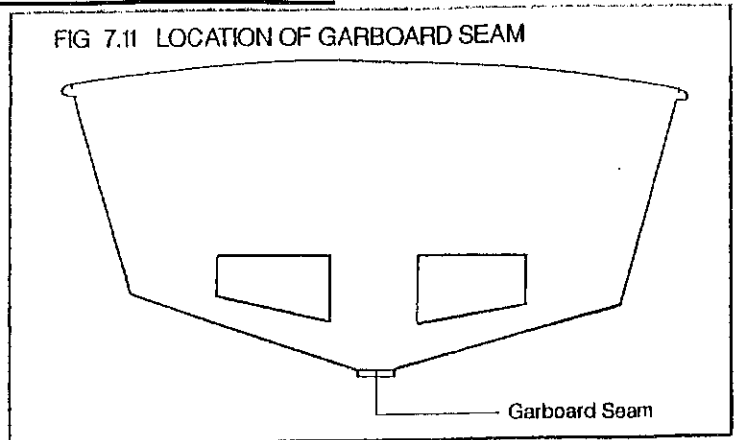


GP14 Measuring Notes

Items 14.1 and 14.3 are measured from the Garboard Seam. This is the line on the bottom of a wooden boat where the plywood skin meets the Keel (*Figure 7.11*), and the corresponding position on plastic hulls. The task is very easily accomplished if you have a Rudder Gauge (*Figure 3.3*). Otherwise, put a piece of masking tape on the Blade and mark on it the height of the Garboard Seam with the help of a set square. You can then take the Rudder off the boat for measuring. Please note that for Item 14.3 there is a minimum as well as a maximum figure.



8. TESTING BUOYANCY

The checks on buoyancy bags are obvious. Is the total buoyancy sufficient? Is it correctly distributed around the boat? Is it adequately secured to the boat? Is it inflated, and does it stay inflated?

Built-in buoyancy tanks can normally be tested satisfactorily using an Air Pressure Test. Use a length of plastic tubing of about 9mm bore. Wind some tape round the tube until you form a bung which will fit the drain hole of a buoyancy tank. If the hole is of the bayonet type, seal the gaps with a piece of blue tack or similar. Now take a big breath and blow into the tank. If the tank is completely sealed you will feel an immediate resistance to blowing in. Put your thumb over the end of the tube and release it after fifteen seconds. If you now hear a rush of escaping air, the tank is well sealed and has passed the test.

Inspection Hatches. One hatch is sufficient in the bulkhead for bow tanks. Underfloor buoyancy in wooden boats should have four hatches, two close to the foot of the mast and two under the rear deck. Check that there is an O-ring available for each hatch. Measurers are asked to remind the owner to take the hatches out when not sailing.

In any case of doubt the boat should be subjected to the swamping test as described in Rule 15.4. Where built-in tanks are found to leak, water from the tanks should be collected and its volume checked against the following criteria :-

- Side tanks may contain up to a maximum of 2 litres
- Bow tanks may contain up to a maximum of 4 litres
- Floor tanks may contain up to a maximum of 4 litres
- The maximum permitted total for a boat is 5 litres

The boat has failed the test if the amount of leakage is in excess of any one of these limits.

Jon Close

Chief Measurer GP14 ICA