

Effective Immediately

To: Beneteau Owners
Date: 2/28/2008
Reference: PBF Mainsail Retrofits
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Standard Furling Mainsail to Vertically Battened Furling Conversion

Since the introduction of the PBF mainsail as the standard mainsail for the Oceanis Series of boats, we have been asked by numerous customers about the feasibility of using the new style mainsail in boats that were purchased pre-2006. The short answer is yes, it can and is being done by many owners, but there are some things you need to know:

1. Boats with Charleston Spar Masts will have no problem making the retrofit across the board.
2. Boats fitted with US Spars prior to Mid-2006 model year masts will need to check and possibly carry out some work in order to allow the sail to furl smoothly.
 - a. Many of the US-Spar masts (depending on model year) were supplied with a plastic lip on either side of the vertical opening of the mast. These strips (port and starboard) were bonded in place with a caulk type adhesive.
 - b. If the plastic strips are in place they will need to be removed. (many because of age have come off long ago on their own accord) Note that the removal of this plastic in no way affects the structural integrity of the mast.
 - c. The material can be sliced with a utility knife and peeled away from the aluminum. You may find some residual caulk left in place that can be removed with a solvent. Additional, the now exposed edge should be checked for burrs and smoothed accordingly.
 - d. With this finished, you will have (depending on mast section) and opening somewhere between 12 and 15mm (1/2"-5/8"). A 12mm opening is our minimum requirement to allow the sail to work. Note that our most recent retrofit was carried out on an older B-461 with a 12mm (1/2") opening and the sail work wonderfully.
3. If you have further questions regarding this retrofitting your mast and boat with a new PBF Mainsail, please feel free to contact the Neil Pryde Agent nearest you.