

LLOYD'S APPROVAL FOR MOONRAKER

Moonraker have announced that they have become Europe's first power yacht manufacturers to comply with Lloyd's new standards of certification.

For some time now Lloyd's have been investigating methods of improving the quality and safety standards of pleasure craft, to encourage and reward more professionalism within the industry. Lloyd's approval is internationally recognised as the standard for all marine craft.

Lloyd's have produced a completely new stringent set of basic standards to be incorporated in the form of an up to date Lloyd's hull certificate. This replaces the original moulding certificate used by many leading boat builders in Europe. The new certificate is much more demanding to the extent of also incorporating specific standards for items subject to considerable wear and stress, and upon which the safety of all vessels would normally depend. These items include: framing, girders and floors, engine seatings, bulkheads, fuel and water tanks, deck and superstructure, steering and stern gear fittings and attachments.

Moonraker's exceptionally high quality, achieved through the production of more than 400 craft inside six years, has been rewarded in that most of the components and systems associated with the new requirements were either within the standards set by Lloyd's or needed only minor changes to comply. Engineers, designers and inspectors from JCL Marine, Moonraker's parent company, have been liaising with Lloyd's and as a result Moonraker have now been granted the new certification.

The certificate awarded to Moonraker signifies that the company operates a 'quality control programme appropriate to the product's design and manufacturing techniques, which will ensure adequate quality standards at all stages of production, including subcontracted work. The programme is to provide for the ready detection of discrepancies and for timely and effective corrective action.'

The quality control arrangements are kept under continuous review by Lloyd's and all activities in this respect are open to periodic and systematic check by their surveyors.

Moonraker is the first craft sufficiently advanced in technical design to qualify for this new certificate, giving them a considerable edge over their competitors.

Moonraker operate with a team of independent quality control staff 'acceptable to the committee (Lloyd's) and which should be responsible to management without being subject to the pressures of production output.'

John Kelly, Moonraker Manufacturing Director, says, "quality control at Moonraker is organized by using independent inspectors employed by the selling agents, JCL Marine, to quality control and inspect the products for delivery on the customer's behalf, the customer in this sense being JCL Marine. As such, quality control standards are kept completely independent from the manufacturing company."

Lloyd's insist on an efficient system for the control of drawings and technical data to ensure that all departments are working to the latest design information. Moonraker itself is responsible for ensuring that all supplies and services procured from suppliers and subcontractors are of adequate quality and conform to the requirements; the committee can inspect at source any supplies manufactured by subcontractors.

Also covered are handling, transportation and storage, together with the company's methods of recruitment and training of staff; adequate and effective measuring and testing devices, including 'Barcol Hardness', electronic measurements of thickness, viscosity of resins, tensile strength indicators, etc., are employed, while records of supply and servicing of material must be kept, together with details of inspection and test.

Owners - past, present and future - will benefit considerably from the knowledge that every Moonraker 36 incorporates these advanced safety and quality control standards.

John Berry, Moonrakers Marketing man, quotes: "At last we have adequate clear cut technical requirements from an independent body (Lloyd's) to substantiate our own claims. Namely, that Moonraker is one of the best engineered motor yachts that money can buy!"

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