

Sailboat Rigging Checklist

Pre purchase and seasonal checks

- **P-** Are chain plates aligned with the turnbuckles, stays, and shrouds? Keep in mind sometimes bends are planned.
- **S-** Are there any signs of leaking around chain plates? *
- **S-** Are masthead mounts for wind indicators and radio antennas secure?
- **S-** If the mast is stepped on deck, is it supported properly below? Solid with no cracks? *
- **S-** Are there any signs of galvanic corrosion at the base of the mast or where dissimilar metal fittings (winches, cleats, etc.) are attached to the mast? (On a painted aluminum mast, corrosion is indicated by bubbles around the fittings. On an unpainted mast, corrosion is indicated by heavy concentrations of white powder (some powder is acceptable) and pockmarks around fittings.)
- **S-** Are welds on the mast and boom clean and free from corrosion? *
- **S-** Are spreader ends secured to the shrouds? *
- **S-** Are halyard fittings, especially the sheaves, in good condition and not crushed, split, or badly worn?

Monthly checks

- **M-** Are terminal fittings (swage fittings, Norseman, Sta-Lok, etc.) free from cracks, bends, and rust? Check with dye penetrant before heavy weather sailing or long passages. *
- **M-** Can turnbuckles all be turned by normal force, not frozen with corrosion?

- M- Are all turnbuckle barrels secured to the threads, either with rings, cotter pins, or by tightening locknuts?
- M- Are the standing rigging, running rigging, and lifelines free from broken strands of wire and without apparent corrosion?

Daily checks

- D- What is the overall condition of the mast? Is it bending or leaning to either side?
- D- Are any rivets or screws missing from sail tracks or other fittings?*
- D- Do spreaders meet the shrouds at equal angles? *
- D- Are the foresails protected by tape or a rubber boot at the spreader ends to protect the sail from wear?
- D- Are cotter pins covered to protect the sail (or skin)?
- D- Are all the sheets, guys, downhulls (lines to manage the sails) onboard and in good condition? *
- D- Do all winches work properly and have been cleaned and lubricated within the last year?
- D- Do blocks (sheaves) turn freely?
- D- Are the forestay fittings good? No cracks, bends, or rust?
- D- Are mainsheet and reefing assembly parts secure and attached?
- D- Are the rope sheets, halyards, topping lifts, guys, downhauls, reefing equipment, boom, and running back stays operable? *
- D- Are jack line tracks, deck tracks, and lifeline stanchions securely fastened? *
- D- What is the condition of the sails? Seams, tears, grommets, slides? *
- D- Is the backstay adjustment mechanism operable?

This is a basic/generic sailboat rigging checklist. Not all boats will have all the items listed. The items with a * are things you might want to check before and after long distance travel or heavy weather usage.

It would be beneficial for each sailor to develop a list of parts and tools necessary to have onboard to keep the rigging at its best.

S- seasonal check; D- every sail outing check; M- monthly check during the sailing season; P- before purchasing the boat