

TECHNICAL CORNER (2):

Rule 60 – height of upper edge of lower band above sheer line

If you have ever been faced with replacing a Streaker mast in your boat for whatever reason, you can find yourself with a small problem of fitting the new mast to the boat so that the mast conforms to Rule 60.

(Measurement Rule 60): Mast – Height upper edge lower band above sheer line. Minimum 570 mm to Maximum 595 mm

Streaker masts are generally supplied over-length, and it is necessary to shorten the mast at the bottom end to fit to your boat yourself. You might ask, 'Why it is not supplied the correct length?' Well, since the class adopted the false floor that the mast sits upon, the height of this false floor is unmeasured and so can vary in height from one boat to another. Hence a mast which was made to fit a Rooster boat might not be the right length for a Butler boat.

The height of the mast is measured not from its foot but from the 'sheer line', so that the rig is effectively the same height in all boats.

In my case I changed from a Rigel section mast to a Selden Lambda section. The sketch below shows how rule 60 is measured, and how I found the dimension of 770 mm for my Rooster Streaker.

I put the over-length mast in the boat and measured as per rule 60. Dimension A was 80 mm. So I then made a pencil mark on the mast a distance of 510 mm (Dimension B) up from the top of the deck. As shown, $A + B = 590$ mm, which conforms with Rule 60. The distance between the top of the lower band and my pencil mark was how much I needed to cut off the end. I would always recommend checking your dimensions two or three times before getting the hacksaw out, however!

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