



Yanmar 'SOLAS-Compliant' in Delivering Aussie First

Leading Yanmar dealer Britton Marine has recently made waves with the delivery to the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) of the first of 14 new RHIBs that feature a SOLAS compliant Yanmar 6LPA-STP marine diesel engine.



The SOLAS compliant 6LPA-STP engine is the first of 14 such Yanmar 6LPA-STP marine diesels to be installed in South African built Gemini hulls and supplied to Tenix Defence as part of the RNZN Project Protector upgrade program.

The Yanmar 6LPA-STP 315 mhp turbocharged and intercooled marine diesel, matched to an Australian-built Doen water jet, was supplied and installed as a matched package by Britton Marine with the first unit successfully undergoing trials in South Africa. Following acceptance, the first Yanmar powered RHIB was then delivered to the Netherlands to be loaded on to the yet to be commissioned new RNZN Multi-Role Vessel (to be named HMNZ Canterbury).

The significance of the Yanmar engine SOLAS compliance lies in the worldwide acceptance of the standard and level of legal standing afforded to organisations who comply. The SOLAS standard was first introduced over 90 years ago and now sets the international benchmark for maritime safety for all shipping vessels.

One key aspect of the SOLAS compliant Yanmar 6LPA-STP engine is the ability to automatically switch off if the vessel capsizes, therefore preventing water ingress and subsequent engine failure. When the vessel is righted, the engine can then be re-started and perform without any concerns of water damage.

Two years after the notorious Titanic tragedy in 1912, maritime authorities from around the world joined together to outline an international treaty concerning the safety of shipping vessels. The result was the first edition of what was to become the most important document in maritime safety, the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS).

The SOLAS treaty is now governed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and continues to be the standard for maritime safety around the world. A requirement of the RNZN Project Protector tender was that certain aspects of the RHIBs meet the SOLAS standards- an objective achieved with the Yanmar 6LPA-STP engines fitted with the Yanmar Norway SOLAS kit.

Vessel operators around the globe are becoming aware of the legal risks in not ensuring certain aspects of their craft comply with international standards for maritime safety. Government departments, rescue and volunteer organisations can ensure their craft and crew are protected by aligning their vessel with the specified SOLAS guidelines.

The Yanmar 6LPA-STP is a 6 cylinder, direct injection, turbo diesel engine displacing 4.163cm³ to produce 255hp @ 3600rpm. Weighing in at 408kg, the Yanmar is renowned for its dependability and efficiency and has proved the perfect match for the Gemini RHIB during testing in South Africa.

With the first Yanmar powered NZN RHIB now in service, Britton Marine will progressively build and complete the balance of 13 vessels from their Sydney based facility.

Yanmar Marine diesel engines are respected around the world for their outstanding performance, compact design and unmatched dependability. Yanmar Marine offers engines, drive systems and accessories for boats from family runabouts, sailboats to mega yachts.

Power Equipment is the exclusive and authorised Australian Distributor of Yanmar Marine and Industrial Diesel Engines importing product from Yanmar plants in Japan, Asia, USA and Europe.

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