

Passage Preparation Checklist

Engine

Oil and filter change
New fuel filters
Check belt tension
Check stuffing box not leaking
Top up battery water level and equalize charge
Fill fuel tanks
Take sample off bottom of both fuel tanks (check for water or sludge)
Fill one spare jerry jug of fuel (for bleeding or emergency)
Spare belts, fuel and oil filters
Oil for 3 full oil changes
Service complete spare set of injectors (if they have been used)

Rig

Sail inspection/touch up seams with popped stitches
Make sure all telltales are intact
Wire tie all shackle pins closed
Check halyards for chafe
Renew marks on reef lines and on halyards (drop or pull lines to marks)
Renew marks on jib tracks for various sails (esp. storm jib) sheeting position
Mark (on mast) spin car pole position for poling out jib
Make sure all clutch labels still readable
Check spreader boots
Clean all shackles and blocks with soapy fresh water
Set up preventers
Set storm jib sheets
Hank trysail on mast track (where it lives on passage)
Stow storm jibs in head shower area
Install stern blocks (used for trysail sheets and drogue bridle)
Install 'safety loops' thru center of blocks (spectra soft loops to contain them if they should explode)

Galley

Fill all propane cans
Test all burners/oven on stove
Flush and fill water tanks
Fill two jerry jugs with water (for emergency)
Several spray and squirt bottles of slightly soapy water (in cockpit and near companionway, to rinse salt off hands and feet – keep salt out of boat)

Safety

Set fixed work station tethers and jacklines
Put drogue and warp on forepeak sole
Put ditch bag next to companionway

Change Co2 on PFD's and test bladders

Check battery on EPIRB

Provide 'crew list and float plan' to emergency contacts

Update speed dial numbers in iridium (USCG, emergency contacts, weather and medical)

Take seasick medications 24hrs before leaving and stow them in an accessible place

Check prescription dates in medical kit and replace as necessary

Navigation

Test iridium

Check for entire e-chart coverage of route

Create 'plan A' route/waypoints with ETAs (include in float plan above)

Sort into sequence paper charts for potential emergency landfalls

Find best SSB weather and net frequencies

Find best weather fax frequencies

Start tracking weather patterns 2 weeks ahead of departure

Change batteries and test celestial calculator

Make sure passports are on board

Steering

Top up autopilot hydraulic fluid

Two spare bottles of hydraulic fluid

Tighten all bolts (locknuts)

Check slop/tension

Lubricate steering system and rinse rudder bearings with soapy fresh water

Mark center, and +/- 8 degrees rudder angle on wheel (reef when wheel goes to +/-8 degree marks)

Bunks

Make up sea bunks

Cover double bunk with plastic

Set up lee cloths

General Stowage

Stow dinghy (under main saloon table)

Stow outboard (in Laz)

Plug windless chain pipe

Duct tape hatches

Remove forward dorades

Replace batteries in all flashlights

Pack pretty much everything in ziplock bags – certainly all books, loose electronics and clothing