

Original Comment:

10/02/02

Saildrive Gasket

Have any members had the experience changing their gasket. Would welcome views on the subject.

In trawling for information, I have had views of "if it doesn't leak, then leave it", or the Volvo (want to sell you another one) "must be changed every seven years". Then there are the worrying thoughts of Insurance, they won't pay up, if it fails and it is out of date.

Would like to have a chat with an owner who has actually fitted his own, as it doesn't look like a particularly easy DIY job.

Carole Yacht Mica (Bavaria 430 Caribic)

Replies:

There was an article about this in either PBO or Sailing Today a couple of years ago or so. I've just spent an hour looking through my back copies and can't find it, perhaps someone else can? I did find a test report on Noah's Ark though!

Graham Smith (B320 Sweet Memories)

I have a copy of the article in the PBO that you mentioned Graham. I also posted a question to PBO's 'Ask the Experts' regarding how the insurance companies view this as a DIY job, thinking that they may not pay out unless it was professionally fitted. I did not receive a reply. Perhaps someone might like to resurrect this posting with their comments or experiences on the subject as I am still no wiser as to whether Insurance Companies might consider it was not properly fitted and therefore would not pay if a claim were to be made.

Carole Bradley (B430 Caribic MICA)

I had a saildrive on a previous boat (non-Bavaria) which was reaching 8 years old. I checked with Volvo's near Moody's - actually spoke to an engineer. His advice was that they have never had an incidence of catastrophic failure and his advice was to leave it until it starts to leak (quite rare). The only draw back with this is at resale time when a surveyor may point it out.

Tony Brighton (B34 Pohutukawa)

Hi Tony,

We had the same advice from a Volvo Engineer, unofficially and off the record, but officially it is stated that it should be replaced every 7 years. Our boat is 11 years old and has never had the seal replaced, there is no sign of leaking and we would love to accept the unofficial advice and leave it. Problem is, how would the Insurance Companies view it, were you unfortunately to make a claim. Would the fact that it hadn't been done be a 'get out' for them from paying the claim. Also, if it was fitted DIY would that also be a 'get out', on the grounds that it was not fitted professionally. An answer to this could be disastrous to have to learn it the hard way.

Carole Bradley (B430 Caribic MICA)

Carole,

Re: insurance - if you dont do it and it leaks (or boat sinks etc) then I'm afraid thats the risk you would be taking. I'm fairly sure an insurance company would frown upon it and use it as an excuse - but you will have to weigh that up. Have you mentioned it to your insurance company? If they have never had to pay out for this type of failure then its possible they will be relaxed.

As far as doing a DIY vs. Professional job is concerned I'm not sure this would make a difference other than to your pocket. Again - one for the insurance company. But keep in mind that its a fairly serious job - I believe you actually have to raise the engine which is engineeringly challenging and getting the seal correctly placed is key to watertight success. I guess the professional quote would be around the £1k+ mark?

By the way - its possible to talk to the insurance companies on a no-names basis - especially at the boat show.

Tony Brighton B34 Pohutukawa)

Carole,

December's Sailing Today has a good write up of the DIY procedure.

Tony Brighton (B34 Pohutukawa)