

Question: Is Pentex sail cloth legal for mainsails and jibs in the VX One Class

Answer: Yes, Pentex-based sail cloth is legal based on both the VX One Class Rules and World Sailing's Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS).

- Pentex is a trade-name for Polyethylene naphthalate (PEN) which is a polyester variation. Various companies market Pentex fabric under their own brands e.g. Apen6 by Contender.
- Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) is another, and more common polyester variation.
- PEN and PET, as structurally-related polyesters, exhibit the same strength; PEN is more resistant to stretch; but is also more susceptible to shrinkage.
- The VX One Class Rules G.3.2 (a) specifies that the mainsail and jib shall be made from polyester fibre or film. Both PEN and PET satisfy this requirement.
- World Sailing's ERS does not offer any more specific definition so it is up to the individual class rules to be more specific if required. Some classes do this e.g. specifically mention PEN as class-legal, but the VX One Class has not.

Note: Sail cloth may receive some attention in the upcoming process to harmonise the VX One Class rules across the world as the class moves to International Status. However, given that PEN is at most about 10% more expensive than equivalent PET (vs say 40% more for aramid-based cloth), and may have advantages in some applications, there would not seem to be any good argument to restrict its use in future.