



Notice to Manufacturers



Communication of New Rules Interpretation

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|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Title | Features on Shafts | Notice # | C2014-001 |
| Supersedes Notice # | N/A | Effective Date | January 1, 2014 |
| Relevant Rule | Appendix II, 1a (General) | | |

Relevant Rule Language

“The club must not be substantially different from the traditional and customary form and make”.

Background / Reason for Communication

Aerodynamic features on shafts have traditionally been ruled contrary to Appendix II, 1a.

A recent study of the effectiveness of different types of aerodynamic features on shafts* has concluded that geometric surface features on shafts such as dimples, grooves, or other structures, whether designed for aerodynamic purposes or not, may have the effect of substantially reducing the drag of a golf shaft.

* *Experimental Thermal and Fluid Science 48 (2013) 15-18*

Revised Interpretation

Appendix II, 1a will be interpreted such that:

- *the surface of the shaft must be smooth and must not contain proud or recessed geometric features other than limited decorative (non-functional) markings. Such limited decorative markings must be no closer than 30 inches from the point where the shaft intersects with the head, neck and/or socket;*
- *shafts with a surface characterized by particle-type roughness of maximum roughness 150 μin (R_A) will be considered smooth;*
- *as an exception, traditional fluting in shafts that are wholly composed of steel shall continue to be permitted.*