Strong Twos

Are these hands suitable/legal for opening a strong two?

Hand A Hand B

♠ 5 K

♥ K 10 4 A J 10 9 8 5 2

♦ A K Q 9 5 3 2 K 9 5

♣ K 8 K 4

The EBU Blue Book (Handbook of EBU permitted understandings) defines a strong opening as ”extended rule of 25” which means the minimum allowed is one or more of the following:

1. Any hand of at least 16 HCP
2. Any hand meeting the rule of 25
3. A hand which has at least opening points and 8 clear-cut tricks.

The “rule of 25” – the HCP + the number of cards in the two longest suits must equal 25 or more.

Hand A

Does not fulfil requirement a) – only 15 HCP

Does fulfil requirement b) – 7 diamonds + 3 hearts + 15 HCP = 25

Does not fulfil requirement c)

So it could be opened with a strong two bid

Hand B

Does not fulfil requirement a) – only 14 HCP

Does not fulfil requirement b) – 7 hearts + 3 diamonds + 14 HCP = 24

Does not fulfil requirement c) – there are not 8 clear-cut tricks opposite a void

So this hand should not be opened with a strong opening bid.