

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME  
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INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING COLLISIONS AT SEA

USE OF A COMBINED LANTERN BY SAILING VESSELS OF  
LESS THAN 12 m IN LENGTH

At the request of the Belgian Government the following information is communicated to Member Governments.

1. Rule 25(b) of the new Collision Regulations - 1972, will permit sailing vessels to exhibit the sidelights and the sternlight as prescribed in the Regulations now in force under Rule 5(a), combined in one lantern to be carried at or near the top of the mast where it can best be seen.

According to Rule 22(c) of the new Regulations sidelights and sternlight must be visible at a distance of at least 1 mile and 2 miles respectively.

These ranges of visibility also apply to the corresponding lights in the combined lantern.

2. Although the new Collision Regulations will not enter into force before 1 January 1976, the Belgian Administration, in view of improving the security of small sailing craft and safety of navigation in very crowded waters, permits, with effect from 1 June 1974 that in the Belgian maritime waters as defined in Article 1 (5<sup>o</sup>) of the Law of 5 June 1972 on the Security of Vessels, sailing craft of less than 12 m in length may exhibit in lieu and instead of sidelights and sternlight, a combined lantern as described in paragraph 1.

3. The Belgian Administration would be pleased to receive reports from masters, pilots, etc. on the visibility of the above-mentioned combined lantern. Such reports may be forwarded to the Water Bailiffs, the Nautical Directors of the Pilotage Services or directly to the Director-General of the Belgian Marine Administration, 30 Belliardstraat, 1040 Brussels.