

NAVIGATION RULES



FLASH CARDS

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. COAST GUARD (06/04)

U.S. COAST GUARD PAMPHLET
PAMPHLET NO. D63103A

This card deck consists of 80 cards. The first 68 cards pertain to the 72 COLREGS and the Inland Navigational Rules Act of 1980. The remaining 12 cards pertain to the present and future Aids to Navigation Systems used in the United States

ARCS OF VISIBILITY

●
A. Sidelight

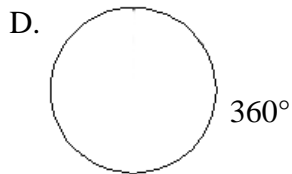
B. Masthead Light

C. Sternlight

D. All-round Light

E. Towing Light

●



2A

VISIBILITY OF LIGHTS

In vessels of _____
meters or more in length:

- A. a masthead light, ___ miles;
 - B. a sidelight, ___ miles;
 - C. a sternlight, _____ miles;
 - D. a towing light _____ miles;
 - E. a white, red, green or yellow all-round light, _____ miles.
-

In vessels of _____
meters or more in length but less
than _____ meters in length:

- A. a masthead light, ___ miles; except that where the length of the vessel is less than 20 meters, _____ miles;
- B. a sidelight, ___ miles;
- C. a sternlight, _____ miles;
- D. a towing light _____ miles;
- E. a white, red, green or yellow all-round light, _____ miles.

VISIBILITY OF LIGHTS

In vessels of 50
meters or more in length:

- A. 6
- B. 3
- C. 3
- D. 3
- E. 3

In vessels of 12
meters or more in length but less
than 50 meters in length:

- A. 5; 3
- B. 2
- C. 2
- D. 2
- E. 2

VISIBILITY OF LIGHTS

● In vessels of less than _____ meters in length:

- A. a masthead light, ____ miles;
 - B. a sidelight, ____ miles;
 - C. a sternlight, ____ miles;
 - D. a towing light ____ miles;
 - E. a white, red, green or yellow all-round light, ____ miles.
-

In an inconspicuous, partly submerged vessel or object being towed:

- A. a white all-round light ____ miles.
-

INLAND RULES ONLY

● For all lengths of vessels:

- A. a special flashing light, ____ miles

VISIBILITY OF LIGHTS

In vessels of less than 12
meters in length:

- A. 2
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 2
- E. 2



In an inconspicuous, partly
submerged vessel or object
being towed:

- A. 3

INLAND RULES ONLY

For all lengths of vessels:

- A. 2



MANEUVERING AND WARNING SIGNALS INTERNATIONAL

- A. I am altering course to starboard
- B. I am altering course to port
- C. I am operating astern propulsion
- D. Agreement to overtaking signal
- E. Bend signal
- F. Danger signal
- G. I intend to overtake you on your starboard side
(Narrow channel or fairway)
- H. I intend to overtake you on your port side
(Narrow channel or fairway)

MANEUVERING AND WARNING SIGNALS INTERNATIONAL

- A. ●
- B. ● ●
- C. ● ● ●
- D. ■ ● ■ ●
- E. ■
- F. ● ● ● ● ●
- G. ■ ■ ●
- H. ■ ■ ● ●



Short
(about 1 second)



Prolonged
(4 to 6 seconds)

MANEUVERING AND WARNING SIGNALS INLAND

- A. I intend / agree to port to port passing
I intend / agree to overtake you on you starboard side
- B. I intend / agree to starboard to starboard passing
I intend / agree to overtake you on your port side
- C. I am operating astern propulsion
- D. Danger signal
- E. Departing dock or berth and Bend signal

MANEUVERING AND WARNING SIGNALS INLAND

- A. ●
- B. ● ●
- C. ● ● ●
- D. ● ● ● ● ●
- E. ■



Short
(about 1 second)



Prolonged
(4 to 6 seconds)

SIGNALS IN RESTRICTED VISIBILITY

INTERNATIONAL ONLY

Required sound signaling devices:

- A. Vessels of less than 12 meters in length.
- B. Vessels of 12 meters or more in length.
- C. Vessels of 20 meters or more in length
- D. Vessels of 100 meters or more in length

SIGNALS IN RESTRICTED VISIBILITY



INTERNATIONAL ONLY

Required sound signaling devices:

- A. Shall be provided with some other means of making an efficient sound signal.
- B. Shall be provided with a whistle.
- C. Whistle and bell.
- D. Whistle, bell and gong.

SIGNALS IN RESTRICTED VISIBILITY

INLAND ONLY

Required sound signaling devices:

- A. Vessels of less than 12 meters.
- B. Vessels of 12 meters or more in length.
- C. Vessels of 100 meters or more in length

SIGNALS IN RESTRICTED VISIBILITY



INLAND ONLY

Required sound signaling devices:

- A. Shall be provided with some other means of making an efficient sound signal.
- B. Whistle, bell.
- C. Whistle, bell and gong.

UNDERWAY










Vessels that are underway in or near an area of restricted visibility must sound the following signals at intervals of not more than ____ minutes.


- A. Power-driven vessel underway and making way:
- B. Power-driven vessel underway but not making way:
- C. Vessel towing or pushing:
- *D. Vessel engaged in fishing
- *E. Vessel restricted in ability to maneuver:
- F. Vessel constrained by draft:
- G. Sailing vessel:
- H. Vessel not under command:
- I. Manned vessel being towed:


* **NOTE**: Vessels engaged in fishing/trawling or restricted in their ability to maneuver do not sound the anchor bell or gong if doing their work at anchor. They sound the whistle signals listed for their type of vessel listed above.

UNDERWAY

Vessels that are underway in or near an area of restricted visibility must sound the following signals at intervals of not more than 2 minutes.

- A. 
- B. 
- C. 
- D. 
- E. 
- F. 
- G. 
- H. 
- I. 

 Short
(about 1 second)

 Prolonged
(4 to 6 seconds)

OPTIONAL SIGNALS

- A. ANCHOR:
- B. PILOT VESSEL:
- C. AGROUND:

OPTIONAL SIGNALS

- A. ANCHOR: A vessel at anchor may also sound a whistle signal consisting of a short, prolonged, and short blast to warn an approaching vessel of her position and of the possibility of collision.



- B. PILOT VESSEL: A pilot vessel engaged in pilotage duty may also sound an identity signal of four short blasts when anchored, making way, or not making way.



- C. AGROUND: A vessel aground may also sound a whistle signal consisting of two short, and one prolonged to warn an approaching vessel of her position and of the possibility of collision. (Pub 102) (Testable)



DISTRESS SIGNALS



RED STAR SHELLS



**FOG HORN
CONTINUOUS
SOUNDING**



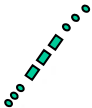
**FLAMES ON
A VESSEL**



**GUN
FIRED AT
INTERVALS
OF 1 MIN.**



**ORANGE
BACKGROUND
BLACK BALL
AND SQUARE**



S O S

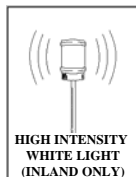
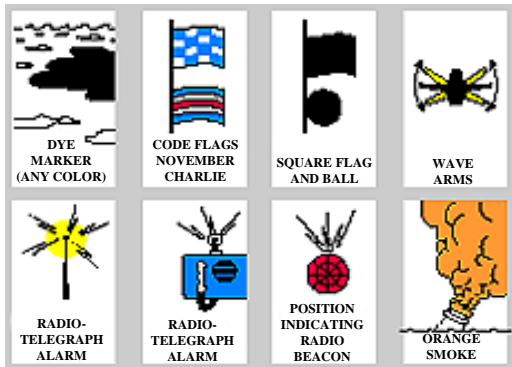


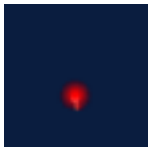
**"MAYDAY"
BY RADIO**



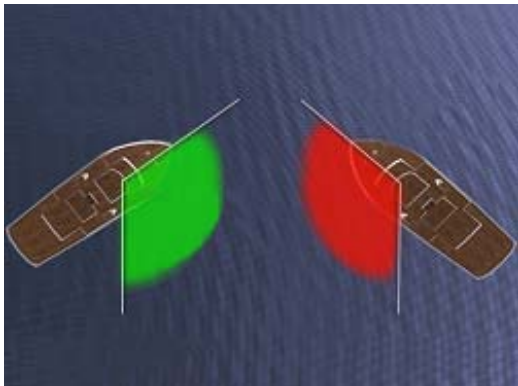
**PARACHUTE
RED FLARE**

DISTRESS SIGNALS



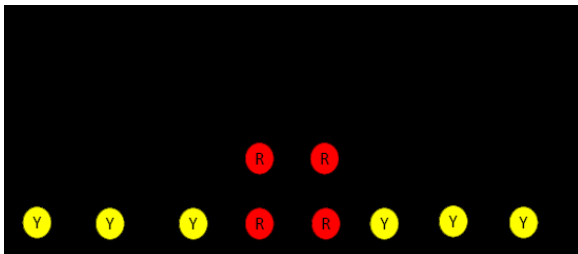


Looking
forward
from own
ship



When two power-driven vessels are crossing so as to involve risk of collision, the vessel which has the other on her own starboard side, shall keep out of the way, and shall Avoid crossing ahead of the other vessel.

RULE 15:



- b. 2 red lights at each end of the pipeline, including the ends in a channel where the pipeline is separated to allow vessels to pass (whether open or closed).
- Visible all around
 - Visible for at least 2 miles
 - One meter apart in a vertical line with the lower light at the same height as the flashing yellow light.

ANNEX V (88.15 b):

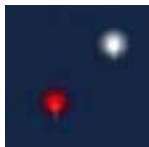


Any barge that projects into the channel from a group formation, shall be lighted on its outboard corners.

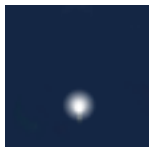
ANNEX V 88.13



Bow



Port



Stern

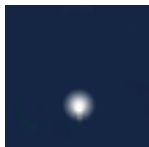


Power-driven vessel underway - LESS than 50 meters
in length.

RULE 23:



Bow



Stern

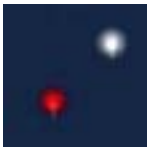


Power-driven vessel LESS than 7 meters (sidelights are carried if practical).

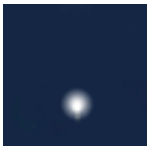
RULE 23:



Bow



Port



Stern



Power-driven vessel underway - LESS than 12 meters
(sidelights may be combined in lantern).



RULE 23:

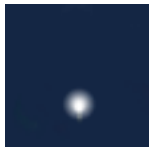




Bow



Port



Stern

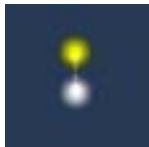


Power-driven vessel underway - 50 meters or MORE
in length.

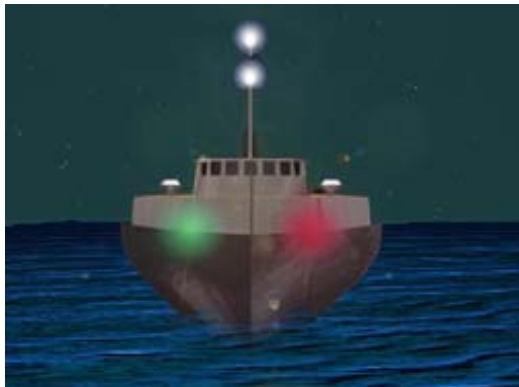
RULE 23:



Port



Stern

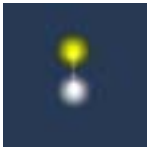


Power-driven vessel LESS than 50 meters in length Towing
ASTERN. Length of tow LESS than 200 meters

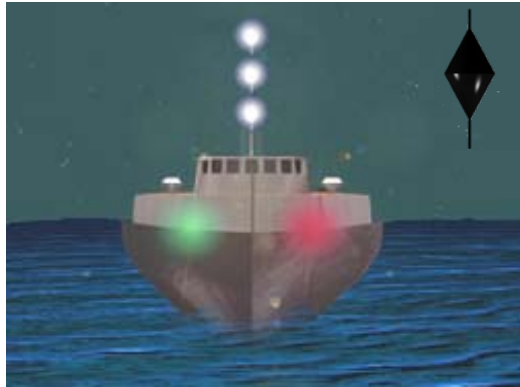
RULE 24:



Port



Stern



Power-driven vessel underway - LESS than 50 meters in length Towing ASTERN. Length of tow greater than 200 meters.



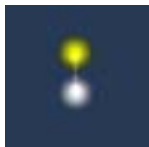
RULE 24:

Dayshape displayed when length of tow exceeds 200 meters.

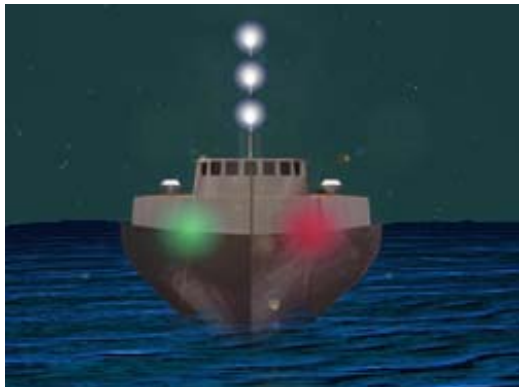




Port



Stern

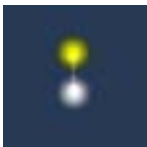


Power-driven vessel 50 meters and upward in length Towing
ASTERN. Length of tow LESS than 200 meters.

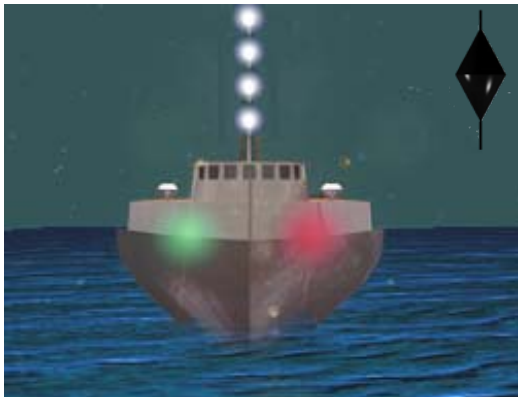
RULE 24:



Port



Stern

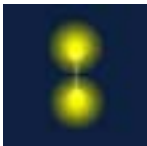


Power-driven vessel 50 meters and upward in length Towing
ASTERN. Length of tow greater than 200 meters.

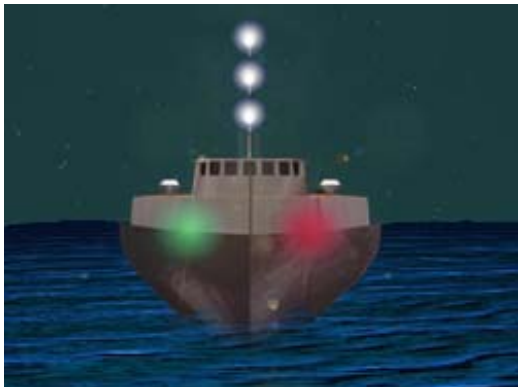
RULE 24:



Port



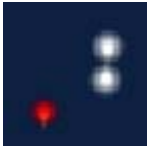
Stern



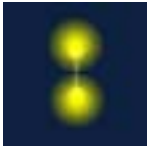
INLAND ONLY

Vessel 50 meters or MORE pushing ahead or towing alongside.

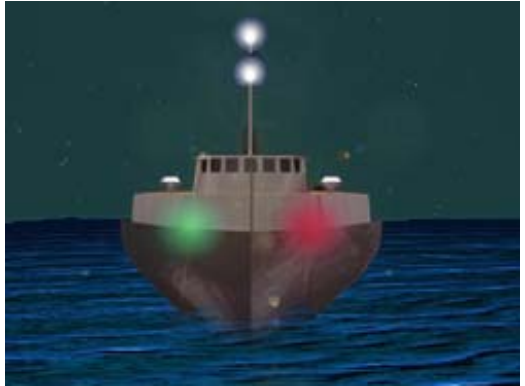
RULE 24:



Port



Stern



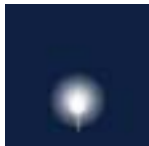
INLAND ONLY

Vessels LESS than 50 meters pushing ahead or towing alongside.

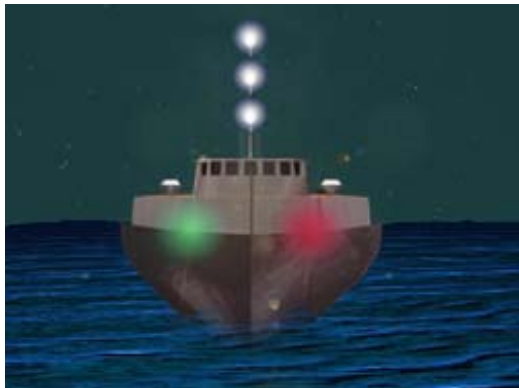
RULE 24:



Port



Stern



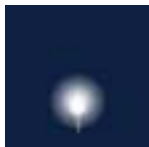
INTERNATIONAL ONLY

Power-driven vessel OVER 50 meters in length pushing ahead or towing alongside.

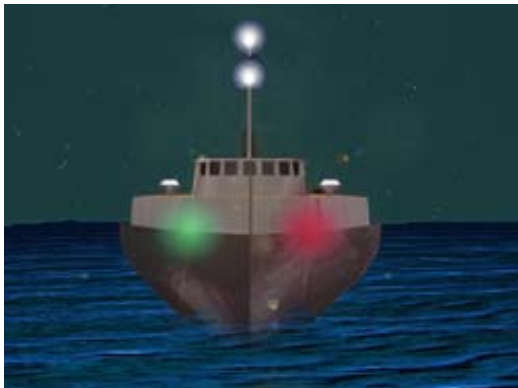
RULE 24:



Port



Stern



INTERNATIONAL ONLY

Power driven vessel LESS than 50 meters in length pushing ahead or towing alongside.

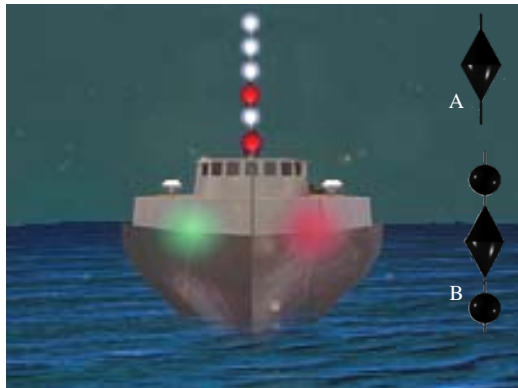
RULE 24:



Port



Stern

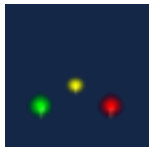


Vessel LESS than 50 meters with length of tow over 200 meters, making way - unable to deviate from her course (Restricted in ability to maneuver).

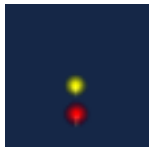
RULE 24 & 27:

- Dayshapes:
- A. Displayed when length of tow exceeds 200 meters.

 - B. Displayed when towing vessel is unable to deviate from her course.



Bow



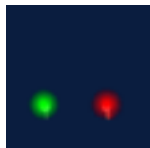
Port



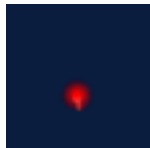
INLAND ONLY

Vessel being pushed ahead (not part of a composite unit)
(special flashing yellow light)

RULE 24:



Bow



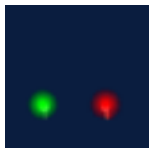
Port



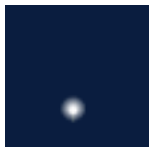
INTERNATIONAL ONLY

A vessel being pushed ahead, NOT part of a composite unit.

RULE 24:



Bow



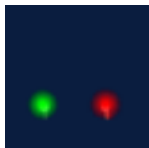
Stern



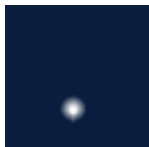
INTERNATIONAL ONLY
Vessel being towed alongside..

RULE 24:





Bow



Stern

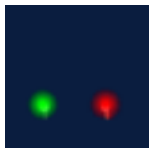


A vessel being towed.

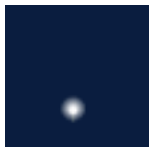
RULE 24:

Dayshape displayed when length of tow exceeds 200 meters.





Bow




Stern



Sailing vessel underway. (If dayshape is not shown)

RULE 25:

According to the rules, when a sailing vessel is also being propelled by machinery this dayshape  is displayed.

According to the rules, this makes the sailing vessel a power driven vessel, not a sailing vessel.

At night, when propelled by machinery with or without the sail, this vessel shall be lit as a power driven vessel of her size.

A sailing vessel less than 12 meters in length is not required to exhibit the dayshape but may do so.



Bow



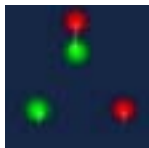
Stern



Sailing vessel LESS than 20 meters displaying running lights in optional lantern at top of mast..

RULE 25:

Dayshape displayed when under sail and also being propelled by machinery.



Bow



Stern



Sailing vessel underway (displaying optional mast lights).

RULE 25:

Cannot show optional lights on the mast if displaying the combined lantern at the top of the mast.



Bow



Port



Stern



Vessel LESS than 50 meters, underway-trawling.

RULE 26:

Dayshape displayed when fishing or trawling.





Bow



Port



Stern

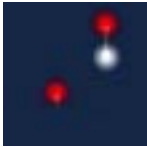


Vessel 50 meters or MORE, underway-trawling.

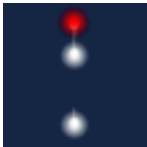
RULE 26:

Dayshape displayed when fishing or trawling.





Port



Stern



Vessel fishing, underway-making way.

RULE 26:

- Dayshapes:
- A. Gear extending more than 150 meters horizontally from the vessel.
 - B. Displayed when fishing or trawling.



Bow/Stern



Port



Vessel fishing, underway not making way or at anchor.

RULE 26:

- Dayshapes:
- A. Gear extending more than 150 meters horizontally from the vessel.
 - B. Displayed when fishing or trawling.



Bow



Starboard



Stern

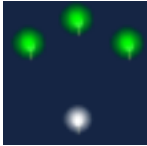


Vessel fishing with gear extending more than 150 meters to starboard, underway-making way.

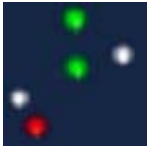
RULE 26:

- Dayshapes:
- A. Gear extending more than 150 meters horizontally from the vessel.

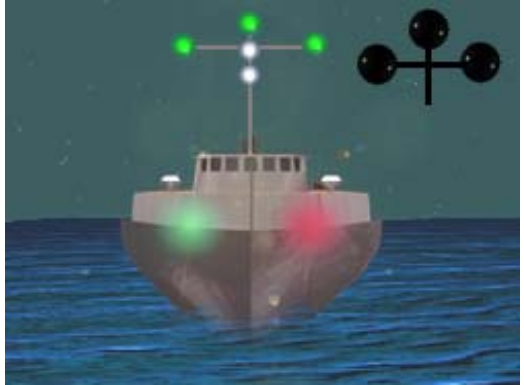
 - B. Displayed when fishing or trawling.



Stern



Port



Vessel 50 meters or MORE engaged in minesweeping..

RULE 27:

Dayshape displayed when engaged in minesweeping.



Bow



Port



Stern



Vessel restricted in ability to maneuver, 50 Meters or more in length, making way (except minesweeping).



RULE 27:

Dayshape displayed when a vessel is restricted in its ability to maneuver.





Bow/Stern



Port

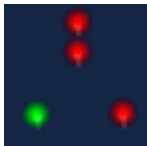


Vessel 50 meters or MORE, restricted in ability to maneuver, at anchor.

RULE 27:

Dayshapes: A. Displayed at anchor.

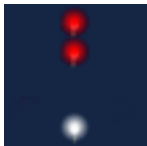
 B. Displayed when a vessel is restricted in its ability to maneuver.



Bow



Port



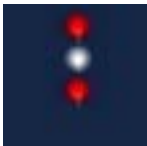
Stern



Vessel not under command, making way.

RULE 27:

Dayshape displayed when a vessel is not under command and is unable to maneuver as required.



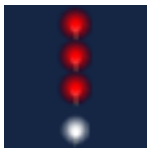
Bow/Stern



Diving operations-when the size of the vessel does not require all the lights and shapes.

RULE 27:

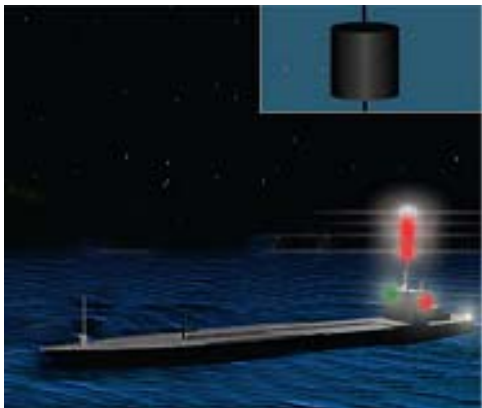
Dayshape displayed when engaged in diving operations.



Stern



Port

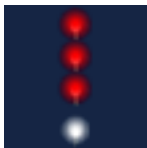


INTERNATIONAL ONLY

Vessel LESS than 50 meters constrained by draft.

RULE 28:

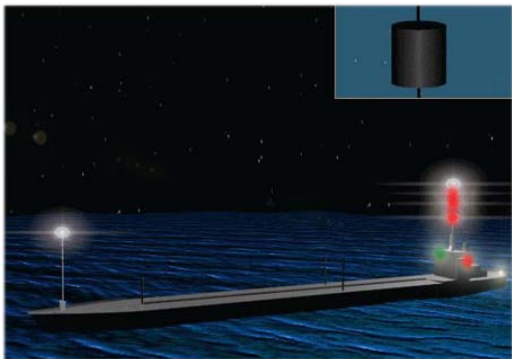
Dayshape displayed when a vessel is constrained by its draft.



Stern



Port

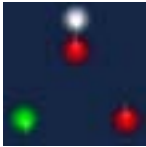


INTERNATIONAL ONLY

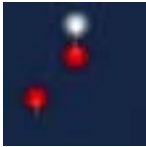
Vessel 50 meters or MORE constrained by draft.

RULE 28:

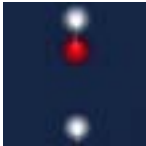
Dayshape displayed when a vessel is constrained by its draft.



Bow



Port



Stern



Pilot vessel, underway LESS than 50 meters, Engaged in pilot duties.

RULE 29:



Bow/Stern



Port

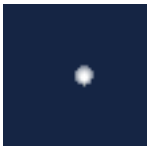


Pilot vessel, at anchor over 50 meters, Engaged in pilot duties.

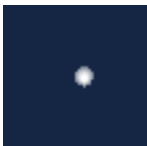
RULE 29:

Dayshape displayed at anchor.





Bow/Stern



Port

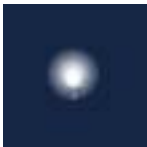


Vessel LESS than 50 meters in length at anchor.

RULE 30:

Dayshape displayed at anchor.





Bow/Stern



port

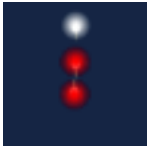


Vessel 50 meters or MORE at anchor.

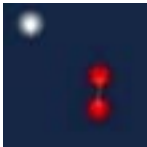
RULE 30:

Dayshape displayed at anchor.





Bow/Stern



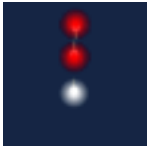
Port



A vessel LESS than 50 meters in length aground..

RULE 30:

Dayshape displayed when a vessel is aground.



Bow/Stern



Port

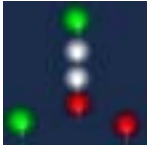


Vessel 50 meters or MORE, aground.

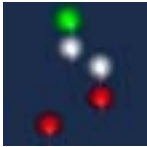
RULE 30:

Dayshape displayed when vessel is aground.





Bow



Port



Stern



Trawler LESS than 50 meters hauling nets-making way.

ANNEX II

Dayshape displayed when fishing or trawling.



Bow/Stern



Port



Trawler shooting nets-not making way.

ANNEX II

Dayshape displayed when fishing or trawling.



Bow/Stern



Port



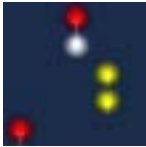
Trawler with nets fast on obstruction-not making way.

ANNEX II

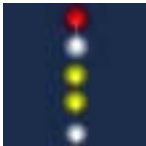
Dayshape displayed when fishing or trawling.



Bow



Port



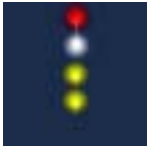
Stern



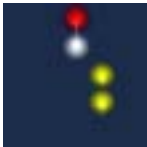
Purse seiner with nets out-making way (alternately flashing yellows).

ANNEX II

Dayshape displayed when fishing or trawling.



Bow/Stern



Port



Purse seiner stopped with nets out (alternately flashing yellows).

ANNEX II

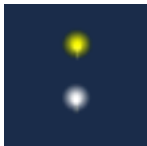
Dayshape displayed when fishing or trawling.



Bow



Port



Stern

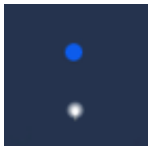


Submarine underway. The amber light has a sequence of one flash per second for three seconds followed by a three second off period.

CFR TITLE 32 PART 706



Bow



Stern

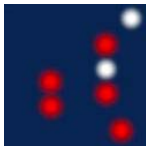


Power-driven vessel underway – LESS than 50 meters in length actively engaged in law enforcement.

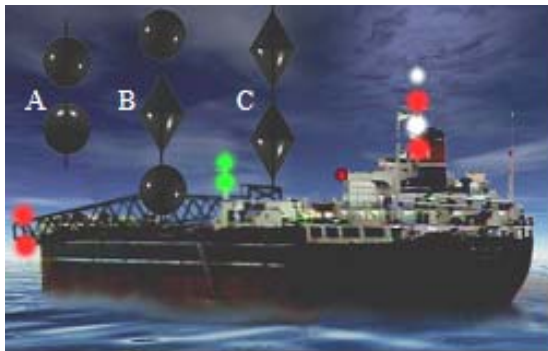
ANNEX V



Stern



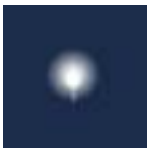
Port



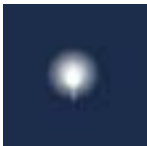
Vessel engaged in dredging or underwater operations, when restricted in ability to maneuver, underway-making way.

RULE 27

- Dayshapes:
- A. Displayed on the side of the obstruction.
 - B. Displayed when a vessel is restricted in its ability to maneuver.
 - C. Displayed on the side on which another vessel may pass.



Bow/Stern

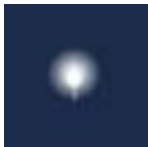


Port

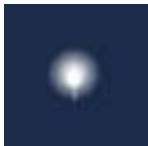


Sailing vessel underway LESS than 7 meters in length shall have ready at hand an electric torch or lighted lantern showing a white light in sufficient time to avoid collision.

RULE 25:



Bow/Stern

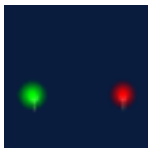


Port



Vessel under oars shall have ready at hand an electric torch or lighted lantern showing a white light.

RULE 25:



Bow



Stern



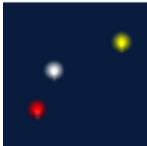
WESTERN RIVERS ONLY

Power-driven vessel pushing ahead or towing alongside on Western Rivers (not part of a composite unit).

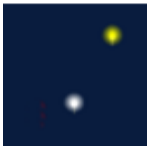
RULE 24:



Bow



Port

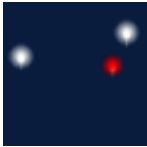


Stern

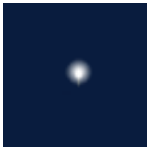


Air cushion vessel when operating in nondisplacement mode
LESS than 50 meters in length.

RULE 23:



Port



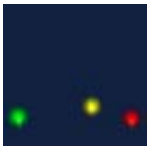
Stern



GREAT LAKES ONLY

Power-driven vessel operating on Great Lakes displaying optional all-round light in lieu of second masthead and sternlight.

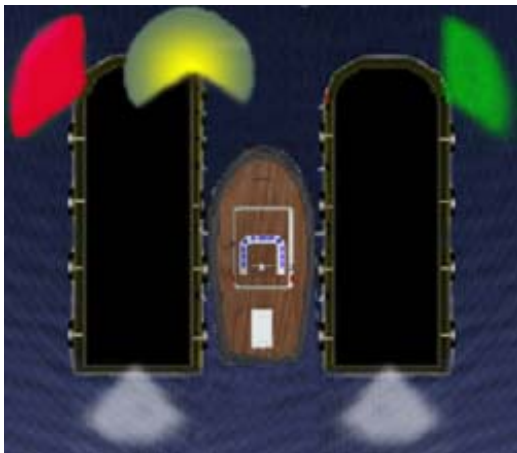
RULE 23:



Bow



Stern



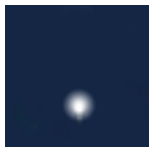
INLAND ONLY

Any number of vessels being towed alongside or pushed in a group shall be lighted as one vessel and a single special flashing light.

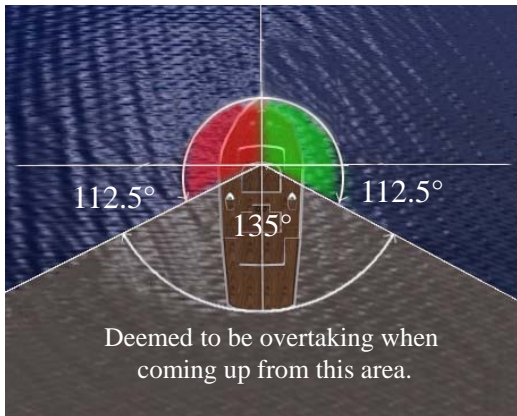
RULE 24(f)(iii):



Bow

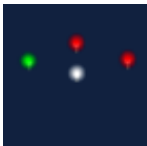


Stern



Vessel shall be deemed to be overtaking when coming up with another vessel from a direction more than 22.5° abaft her beam

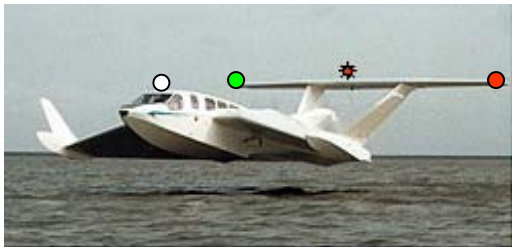
RULE 13:



Bow



Stern



INTERNATIONAL ONLY

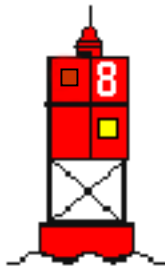
A WIG craft taking off, landing, or in flight near the surface.

RULE 23



DUAL PURPOSE BUOY USED WHERE ICW AND OTHER WATERWAYS COINCIDE

1. Color?
2. Numbered or lettered?
3. Color of light?
4. Characteristic of light?

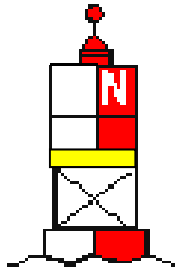
1. Red or green with a yellow square or yellow triangle
2. Odd or even numbers
3. Red or green
4. Flashing Quick flashing
Occulting Isophase
Group flashing (2)





SAFE WATER BUOY ICW

- 
1. Color?
 2. Numbered or lettered?
 3. Color of light?
 4. Characteristic of light?
- 

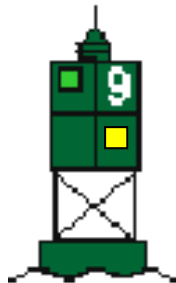
1. Red and white vertically striped with yellow band
2. No numbers – may be letters
3. White light only
4. Morse code “A” ● ■





PORT SIDE ICW (ONLY)

- 
1. Color?
 2. Numbered or lettered?
 3. Color of light?
 4. Characteristic of light?
- 

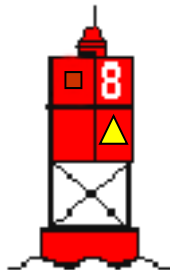
1. Green with yellow square
2. Odd numbers
3. Green only
4. Occulting Quick flashing
Flashing Isophase
Group flashing (2)



STARBOARD SIDE ICW (ONLY)

- 
1. Color?
 2. Numbered or lettered?
 3. Color of light?
 4. Characteristic of light?
- 

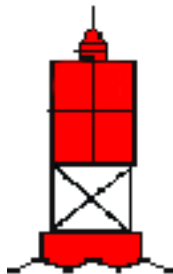
1. Red with yellow triangle
2. Even numbers
3. Red only
4. Occulting Quick flashing
Flashing Isophase
Group flashing (2)



STARBOARD SIDE (LEFT DESCENDING BANK) WESTERN RIVERS

1. Color?
2. Numbered or lettered?
3. Color of light?
4. Characteristic of light?

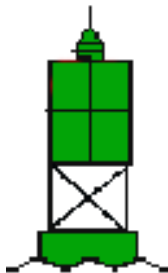
1. Red
2. No numbers; no letters
3. Red or white (if lit)
4. Isophase
Group flashing (2) 5s or 6s



PORT SIDE (RIGHT DESCENDING BANK) WESTERN RIVERS

1. Color?
2. Numbered or lettered?
3. Color of light?
4. Characteristic of light?

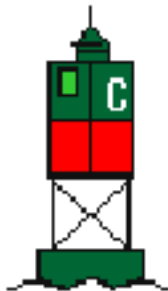
1. Green
2. No numbers; no letters
3. Green or white (if lit)
4. Isophase or Flashing 4s
Flashing (2)



PEFERRED CHANNEL TO STARBOARD LATERAL SYSTEM

1. Color?
2. Numbered or lettered?
3. Color of light?
4. Characteristic of light?

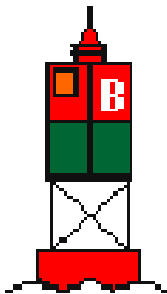
1. Green and red (topmost band green)
2. Letters only
3. Green only
4. Composite group flashing (2 + 1)



PEFERRED CHANNEL TO PORT LATERAL SYSTEM

1. Color?
2. Numbered or lettered?
3. Color of light?
4. Characteristic of light?

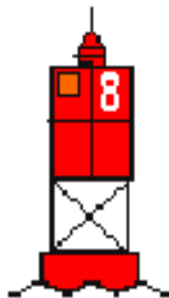
1. Red and green (topmost band red)
2. Letters only
3. Red only
4. Composite group flashing (2 + 1)



STARBOARD SIDE LATERAL SYSTEM

1. Color?
2. Numbered or lettered?
3. Color of light?
4. Characteristic of light?

1. Red
2. Even numbers
3. Red
4. Occulting Quick flashing
Flashing Isophase
Group flashing (2)

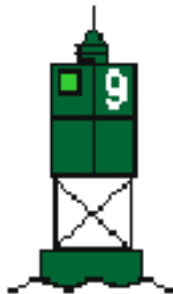


PORT SIDE LATERAL SYSTEM

1. Color?
2. Numbered or lettered?
3. Color of light?
4. Characteristic of light?

1. Green
2. Odd numbers
3. Green only
4. Occulting
Flashing
Group flashing

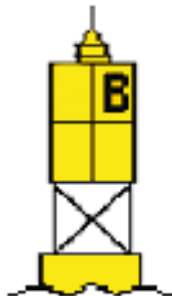
Quick flashing
Isophase



SPECIAL MARKS LATERAL SYSTEM

1. Color?
2. Numbered or lettered?
3. Color of light?
4. Characteristic of light?

1. Yellow
2. No numbers; Black opaque over yellow retro-reflective material
3. Yellow
4. Fixed Flashing



SAFE WATER LATERAL SYSTEM

1. Color?
2. Numbered or lettered?
3. Color of light?
4. Characteristic of light?

1. Red and white vertically striped
2. Letters only
3. White only
4. Morse code "A" ● ■

