



Sea Scouting

Symbols, Regulations, Lights & Sounds



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National Water Activities Centre

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Feb 2009

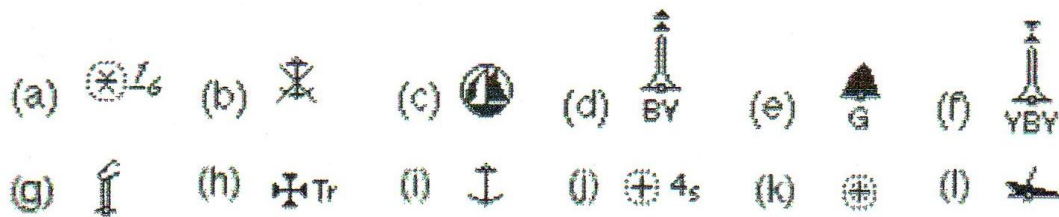


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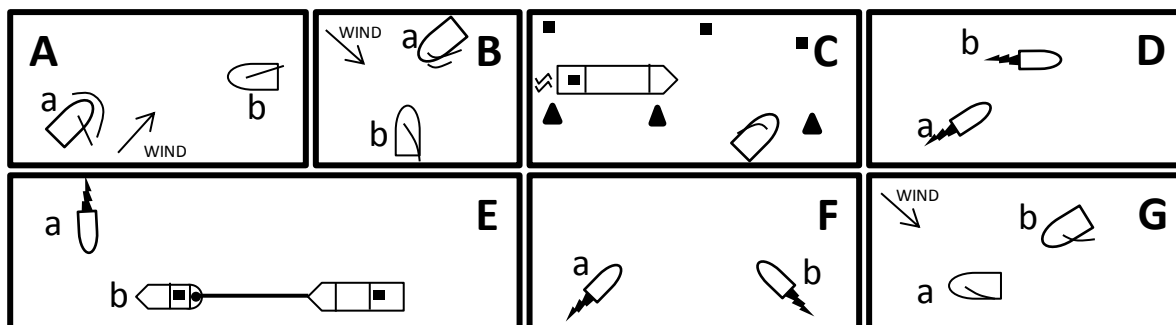
Chart Symbols



- (a) Rock which covers and uncovers. 1.6M above water at Lowest Astronomical tide.
- (b) Anchoring prohibited..
- (c) Yacht harbour, marina (Note: Symbol in purple on chart).
- (d) Cardinal buoy – North.
- (e) Conical buoy (Note: Conical – Green, Note opposite Square or Can buoy – Red).
- (f) Cardinal buoy – West.
- (g) Chimney.
- (h) Church with a tower.
- (i) Anchorage area.
- (j) Dangerous underwater rock of known depth 4.5 meters.
- (k) Rock awash at Chart Datum.
- (l) Wreck partially showing at Chart Datum.



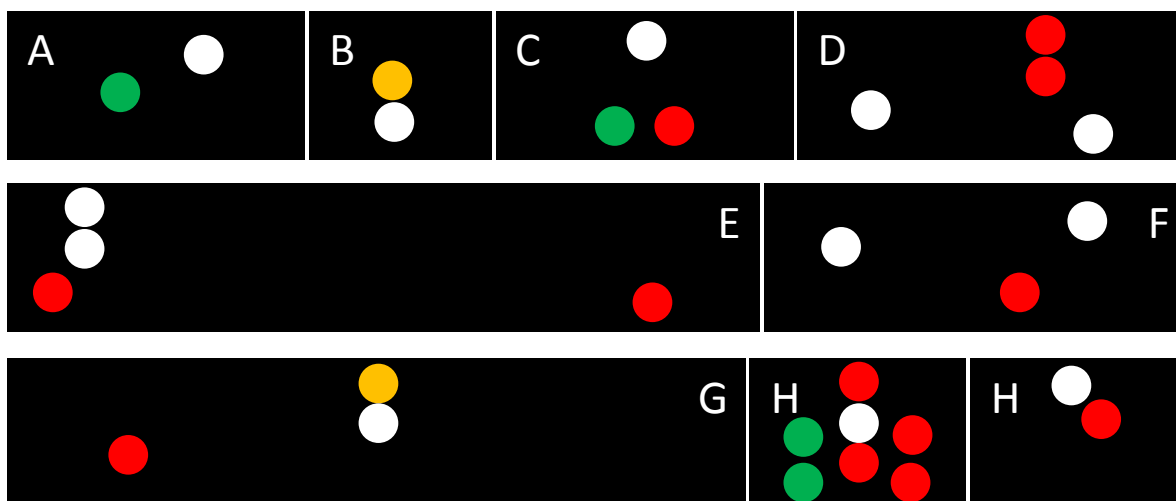
Collision Regulations



- (a) Both vessels are on the port tack (both booms are out to starboard), therefore the windward vessel A must give way.
- (b) B gives way to A as A has the wind on its starboard side.
- (c) Sailing vessel must give way to vessel under power in the channel.
- (d) A is overtaking B, B keeps a steady course and A must clearly alter course.
- (e) A must avoid B as B has restricted ability to manoeuvre.
- (f) B is on starboard side of A, therefore A must give way to B.
- (g) Both boats are on the same tack but B is overtaking, and must stay clear. Or if B passes the overtaking line, he must still stay clear because he is the windward boat. B's best manoeuvre would be to steer sharply to port, passing astern of A, and then resuming his course.



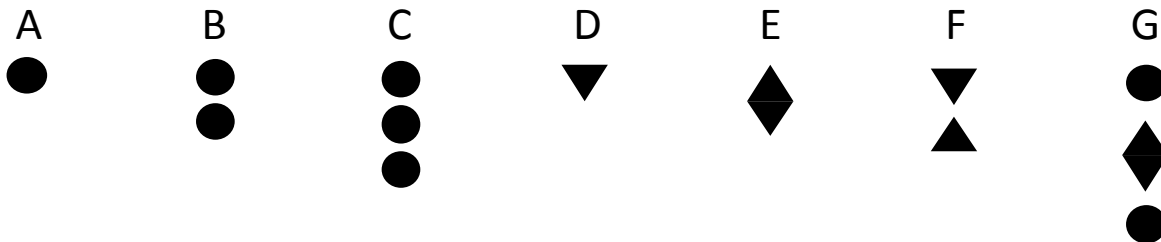
Lights



- (a) Starboard side of power vessel > 50m.
- (b) Aft of tug with something in tow.
- (c) Bow-on view vessel under 50m under way.
- (d) Vessel aground > 50m.
- (e) Port side of vessel towing another vessel with length of tow (i.e. length of towline plus length of vessel) less than 200M. The rear red light is on the vessel being towed.
- (f) Port side of engine powered vessel over 50m under way.
- (g) Port side of tug with something in tow.
- (h) Starboard side of fishing vessel (trawler) under way.
- (i) Vessel carrying out underwater work which restricts ability to manoeuvre. The vertical green and red lights indicate safe and dangerous sides to pass.
- (j) Pilot vessel on station.



Shapes



- (a) Anchored vessel.
- (b) Vessel not under command.
- (c) Vessel aground.
- (d) Sailing vessel with sails raised and engine running i.e. “motor-sailing”.
- (e) Tug with train, train vessels should also carry this symbol.
- (f) Trawler / Fishing boat.
- (g) Dredger and also any vessel “restricted in ability to manoeuvre” – e.g. a tug with a very awkward tow.



Sounds

Manoeuvring and warning signals

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
■	■■	■■■	■■■■	■■■■■	■■■■■	■■■■■

"**Short blast**" means a blast or a sound of about one second's duration.

"**Prolonged blast**" means from 4 - 6 seconds duration.

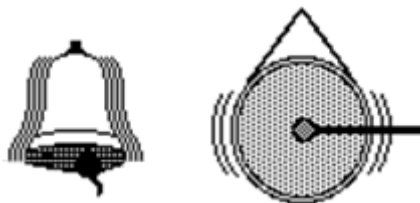
- (a) One short blast ("E" in Morse) - "I am altering my course to starboard".
- (b) Two short blasts ("I" in Morse) - "I am altering my course to port".
- (c) Three short blasts ("S" in Morse) - "I am operating stern propulsion" (my engines are going astern).
- (d) Two long and one short blasts ("G" in Morse) - "I intend to overtake you on your starboard side".
- (e) Two long and two short blasts ("Z" in Morse) - "I intend to overtake you on your port side".
- (f) Long, short, long, short ("C" in Morse) - acknowledge signal.
- (g) Five short blasts ("5" in Morse) - this signal is given by one vessel to attract the attention of another vessel, e.g. where the first vessel has right of way and the second vessel does not appear to have seen him or is not obviously giving way in good time.



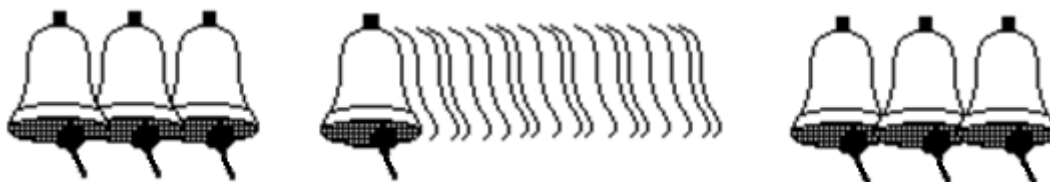
Sound signals in restricted visibility



- (a) **Power vessel making way** (“T” in Morse) - one prolonged blast every two minutes.
- (b) **Power vessel under way but stopped** (“M” in Morse) - two prolonged blasts every two minutes.
- (c) **Sailing vessel under way, or a vessel not under command, or a vessel towing, fishing or otherwise hampered** (“D” in Morse) - one long and two short blasts every 2 minutes.
- (d) **Vessel being towed** (“B” in Morse) - one long and three short blasts, if possible coming immediately after the signal made by the towing vessel.
- (e) **Vessel at anchor** (“R” in Morse) - a bell rung rapidly for 5 seconds every one minute in the forepart of the vessel. If over 100 meters long, a gong is sounded for a further 5 seconds in the after part of the vessel. In addition, the anchored vessel may sound one short, one long and one short blast on the whistle to give extra warning of her position to an apparently approaching vessel.



- (f) **Vessel aground** (“R” in Morse) - the same signal as a vessel at anchor, with the addition of three separate and distinct strokes on the bell immediately before and after the five seconds rapid ringing.



- (g) **Pilot vessel on duty** (“H” in Morse) - in addition to its ordinary signal, may sound four short blasts as an identity signal.