



The Rule is followed by an explanation

Rule 1 Application

(a) These Rules shall apply to all vessels upon the high seas and in all waters connected therewith navigable by seagoing vessels.

(b) Nothing in these Rules shall interfere with the operation of special rules made by an appropriate authority for roadsteads, harbours, rivers, lakes or inland waterways connected with the high seas and navigable by seagoing vessels. Such special rules shall conform as closely as possible to these Rules.

(c) Nothing in these Rules shall interfere with the operation of any special rules made by the Government of any State with respect to additional station or signal lights, shapes or whistle signals for ships of war and vessels proceeding under convoy, or with respect to additional station or signal lights or shapes for fishing vessels engaged in fishing as a fleet. These additional station or signal lights, shapes or whistles shall, so far as possible, be such that they cannot be mistaken for any light, shape or signal authorised elsewhere under these Rules.

d) Traffic separation schemes may be adopted by the Organisation for the purpose of these Rules.

(e) Whenever the Government concerned shall have determined that a vessel of special construction or purpose cannot comply fully with the provision of any of these Rules with respect to the number, position, range or arc of visibility of lights or shapes, as well as to the disposition and characteristics of sound-signalling appliances, such vessel shall comply with such other provisions in regard to the number, position, range or arc of visibility of lights or shapes, as well as to the disposition and characteristics of sound-signalling appliances, as her Government shall have determined to be the closest possible compliance with these Rules in respect of that vessel.

Rule 1 Explanation

The Rules must be followed when;

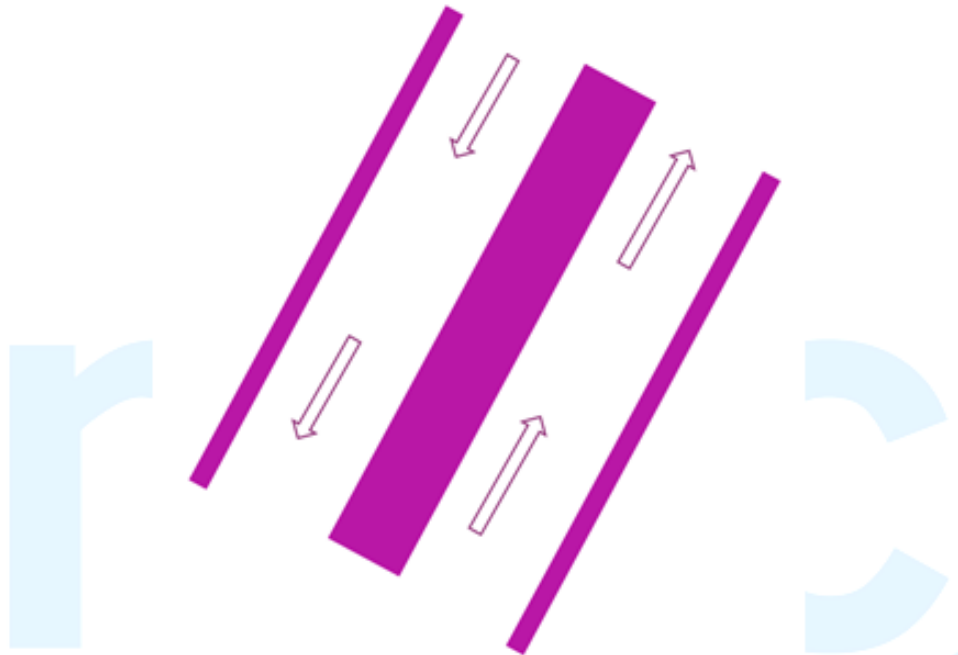
You are in command of any sea going vessel used for transport on water, when the vessel is on the high seas or on navigable waters connected to the high seas. Non-displacement craft, WIG (Wing in Ground) and seaplanes are included in the definition of a vessel given in Rule 3(a) and should therefore be considered as a power-driven vessel for the purpose of these Rules





Mariners should be aware that special rules may be applicable in such areas and should consult the Sailing Directions and other publications for details. An example of local Rules are the American Inland Regulations.

Traffic separation schemes may be adopted by the Organisation for the purpose of these Rules.



Warships' lights The special arrangements of lights on some British warships are described in The Mariner's Handbook. Aircraft carriers have their masthead lights placed off the centre line with reduced horizontal separation. Their sidelights may be on either side of the hull or on either side of the island structure. Many warships of over 50 metres in length cannot be fitted with a second masthead light. Submarines usually have two masthead lights but the forward white light may be lower than the sidelights. Some submarines are fitted with an amber flashing light 2 metres above the after masthead light for use as an aid to identification in narrow waters and areas of dense traffic.