

Disclaimer: These flash cards are provided as a study aid for certain U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary proficiency tests. They are in no way intended as a substitute for studying and obeying the actual Navigation Rules as published by the United States Coast Guard.

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What is the purpose of the NavRules?

To prevent collisions between vessels.

What four factors do the NavRules establish?

Responsibilities, priorities, specific actions and means of communication.

To what vessels do the NavRules apply?

All vessels. Rule 1a.

Who is responsible for complying with the NavRules?

The person in command and all crew are responsible. Rule 2a.

What NavRules govern vessels on the high seas?

The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, commonly called the COLREGS. Rule 1a.

What NavRules govern vessels on waters inside the United States?

The Inland Navigational Rules. Rule 1a.

How can you tell which rules apply?

The boundaries are described in Inland Rules and Coast Pilots and marked on applicable charts. Introduction.

When is the potential for collision likely to be high?

When vessels are meeting, crossing or overtaking, and in or near areas of restricted visibility.

How is information needed to avoid collisions communicated?

By lights, day shapes, sound signals, light signals, radiotelephone and other means.

What precautions must the operator and crew take to avoid collisions?

All precautions required by the ordinary practice of seamen or by special circumstances of the case.

Under the NavRules, what is a power driven vessel?

Any vessel propelled by machinery.

Under the NavRules, what is a sailing vessel?

Any vessel propelled by Sail Alone.

Under the NavRules, when is a vessel engaged in fishing?

When fishing with gear which restricts her ability to maneuver.

When is a vessel not under command?

When some exceptional circumstance prevents her from maneuvering as required by the NavRules.

When is a vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver?

When the nature of her work prevents her from maneuvering as required by the NavRules.

When is a vessel underway?

When she is neither made fast to shore, aground, nor at anchor and not dragging.

When are vessels in sight of one another?

When and only when one can be visually (by eye) seen from the other.

When and how must a lookout be kept?

At all times, by sight, hearing and all other means available.

What factors should be considered in determining a safe speed?

Visibility, traffic density, background lights, current, wind and sea state, hazards, maneuverability, and draft relative to depth of water.

When does a risk of collision exist?

When the compass bearing of any part of an approaching vessel does not change.

When avoiding collision, how much should you alter course for your maneuver to be readily apparent to the other vessel?

Experience indicates that a change of 60 degrees can be easily recognized, even on radar.

If circumstances allow you to alter either speed or course to avoid collision, which would be better and why?

Alter course because it will be more obvious to the other vessel.

After acting to avoid a collision, what must you then do?

Watch to be sure that the action is effective until the other vessel is past and clear.

Which side of a narrow channel should you follow?

The starboard side.

What special care must a vessel under 20 meters take in a narrow channel?

She must not impede a vessel which can navigate only in the channel.

When a vessel is fishing in a narrow channel, over what other vessels is she the stand-on vessel?

Only over the overtaking vessels.

What must you do when crossing a narrow channel?

Stay clear of any vessel which can navigate only with the channel.

Under the COLREGS, when you intend to overtake another vessel in a narrow channel and she must take some action to let you pass, what signals must you sound?

If you intend to pass on her starboard side, sound two prolonged blasts and one shore blast. If on her port side, two prolonged blasts and two short blasts.

Under the COLREGS, in a narrow channel, when you must act to allow a vessel to pass you, how do you signal agreement with her proposal?

By sounding one prolonged blast, one short, one prolonged and one short blast.

Under the Inland Rules when overtaking in a narrow channel, what signals do you sound?

If you wish to pass on her starboard, sound one short blast. If to port, sound two short blasts.

Under Inland Rules, if you are being overtaken in a narrow channel, how do you reply to the overtaking vessel's signals?

If it is safe and you agree, reply with the same signal. If you doubt its safety, reply with the danger signal of five short blasts.

Under COLREGS, what signals do sailing vessels make when overtaking in a narrow channel?

They make the same signals as power driven vessels.

Rules for the conduct of vessels in sight of one another apply when?

One vessel can be seen for the other.

The vessel directed to keep clear of another is called?

The give-way vessel.

The stand-on vessel may take avoiding action when?

As soon as it becomes obvious that the give-way vessel is not taking proper action.

A power driven stand-on vessel which must take action in a crossing situation should not alter course to ?

Port for a vessel on her port side.

When two sailing vessels at risk of collision have the wind on *different sides*, which is the give way vessel?

The vessel with the wind on her port side

When two sailing vessels at risk of collision have the wind on the *same side*, which is the give way vessel?

The windward vessel.

If a vessel with the wind on her port side cannot tell whether one to windward has the wind on her port or starboard side, what should she do?

She should give way.

In NAVRULES, which is the windward side of a sailing vessel?

If fore and aft rigged, the side opposite to that on which the mainsail is carried.

A vessel being overtaken has priority over?

Any overtaking vessel.

You are overtaking another vessel when?

At night you can see her stern light, but not her side lights.

You cease to be an overtaking vessel when?

When you are past and clear of the overtaken vessel.

When two vessels are meeting head-on, what action should each of them take?

Sound one short blast, and turn to starboard.

If you are not sure that a vessel is approaching you head-on, what actions should you take?

Assume that she is approaching head-on, sound one short blast, and turn to starboard.

When two power driven vessels are crossing so as to involve risk of collision, what actions should each take?

The one to port must keep clear.

Under the Inland Rules, on the Great Lakes, Western Rivers, and other specified waters, what special responsibility does a vessel crossing the river have with respect to other vessels?

She must keep clear of any vessels ascending or descending.

When a give-way vessel maneuvers to avoid another, what should she avoid doing?

Crossing ahead of the other if circumstances of the case permit.

When must a power driven vessel give way to a crossing vessel?

When the crossing vessel is approaching within a sector from dead ahead to $22\frac{1}{2}$ degrees abaft the starboard beam. (the arch of the starboard side light)

Under both International and Inland Rules, when are maneuvering and warning signals given?

When the lookout on each vessel can see the other.

Under International Rules, what does a maneuvering signal indicate?

An action is being taken.

Under Inland Rules, what does a turning signal indicate?

An action is intended.

Three short blasts indicate?

A vessel operating astern propulsion.

Two short blasts indicate?

I am turning or intend to turn to port.

Five or more blasts mean?

Danger or Doubt.

What visual signal may be used to supplement whistle signals?

An all around light showing the same sequence of flashes.

Under Inland Rules, what signal is sounded when a vessel leaves a dock?

One prolonged blast.

When approaching a place where other vessels may be obscured by obstructions, what signal should be sounded?

One prolonged blast.

Under the Inland Rules, when are maneuvering signals not required?

When agreement has been reached by using the bridge to bridge radio telephone.

If agreement is not reached by using the bridge to bridge radio telephone, what must be done?

Exchange whistle signals which shall prevail.

What special precaution is necessary when using the bridge to bridge radio telephone?

Each vessel must know the other's identity and position.

A vessel not under command is a give way vessel with respect to?

A vessel which she is overtaking.

A vessel under 7 meters in length with a diver down must give way to?

A vessel not under command.

In restricted visibility, which is the stand-on vessel?

None.

If you detect a vessel on your radar, what must you do?

Use a radar plot or similar means to determine whether a close quarters situation exists or is likely to occur.

In fog, if you determine that a close quarters situation is developing with respect to a vessel forward of your beam, what should you avoid doing?

Avoid turning to port unless you are overtaking her and intend to pass on her port side.

In fog, if there is a close quarters situation with a vessel on or abaft the beam, what should you avoid doing.?

Avoid turning to port.

Unless you know that no risk of collision exists with a vessel forward of your beam, what must you do when you hear her fog signal?

Reduce speed to the minimum at which you can stay on course and, if necessary, stop.

What is the least speed at which very large vessels can be expected to stay on course?

Five or more knots.

When must you use the signals prescribed for restricted visibility?

In or near an area of restricted visibility.

In fog, do you also use the maneuvering signals for vessels in sight of each other?

No, it would be confusing because no one would know which vessel was signaling.

What is the maximum interval between repetitions of a fog signal?

Two minutes for vessels under way. One minute for vessels at anchor or aground.

In restricted visibility, what does one prolonged blast mean?

A power vessel making way.

When a power vessel is drifting with no way on, what fog signal does she sound? (underway but not making way)

Two prolonged blasts every two minutes or less.

What signal does a tug or vessel not under command sound in fog?

One prolonged and two short blasts.

What signal does the last towed vessel sound in fog if manned?

One prolonged and three short blasts.

What fog signals do vessels not under command or restricted in their ability maneuver sound?

One prolonged and two short blasts.

What fog signals are sounded by sailing vessels?

One prolonged and two short blasts.

When at anchor in fog, what signals do most vessels under 100 meters long sound?

A bell is rung rapidly for about 5 seconds at maximum intervals of 1 minute.

In fog, if you hear rapid ringing of a bell and then sounding of a gong, what does it mean?

An anchored vessel over 100 meters long.

While at anchor in fog, if you detect a vessel coming too close to you, what signal should you give?

Sound one short, one prolonged and one short blast.

If you hear three separate and distinct strokes before and after the rapid ringing of a bell, when in fog, what does it mean?

A vessel aground.

If you hear four short blasts after another fog signal, what does it mean?

A pilot vessel.

When are fog signals not required at anchor?

In Inland waters when a vessel under 20 meters, a barge or other nondescript craft is anchored in a designated special anchorage.

The following are not authorized distress signals in International Waters

A high intensity flashing white light.

A national ensign upside down.

What signal, other than a distress signal, means "I require assistance"?

Three short blasts and one prolonged blast.

What does two short and one prolonged blast mean?

You are standing into danger.

What does a signal of two short blasts, one prolonged blast, and one short blast mean?

"I am disabled. Communicated with me."

Inland Navigational Rules apply to All vessels.

A vessel not under command may have a jammed rudder.

Vessels are within sight of each other when each can be seen from the other.

A safe speed is determined by the operator's judgement.

When the compass bearing of any part of an approaching vessel does not change, you are on a collision course.

Action taken to avoid collision must be large enough to be obvious on the other vessel. Change course at least 60 degrees.

A vessel wishing to overtake you in a narrow channel in international waters sounds two prolonged and two short blasts. If you agree you sound one prolonged and one short, one prolonged and one short.

When approaching a bend in a narrow channel, you hear one prolonged blast. You should sound one prolonged blast...and watch out.

In International Traffic Separation Schemes vessels fishing shall not impede any other vessel operating in a traffic lane.

Vessel traffic services exist only in Inland Rules waters.

Rules for the conduct of vessels in sight of one another apply when one vessel can be seen from the other.

When two sailing vessels are at risk of collision the vessel which has the wind on the port side must keep clear of the one with the wind on the starboard side.

If a vessel with the wind on her port side cannot tell whether one to windward has the wind on her port or starboard side, she should give way.

A vessel being overtaken stands on with respect to all other vessels at all times.

You cease to be an overtaking vessel when you are past and clear of the overtaken vessel.

When two power driven vessels are crossing so as to involve risk of collision the vessel to port must keep clear.

Under the International Rules, maneuvering and warning signals are not answered by the other vessel unless she is doubtful, apprehensive or is maneuvering herself.

Two short blasts means...under Inland Rules I intend to turn to port. (one is starboard, two is port) remember "to port".

Five or more short blasts are sounded by a sailing vessel to indicate doubt. Or any other vessel to indicate doubt.

What special precaution is necessary when using the Bridge to Bridge Radio Telephone? (to avoid collisions)

Each vessel must know the identity and position of the other.

In restricted visibility, which is the stand on vessel? None.

In restricted visibility, if you detect a vessel on your radar what must you do?

Make a systematic observation or make a radar plot.

In restricted visibility, you hear one prolonged blast, and two minutes later, you hear another. What is it?

A power driven vessel underway.

In restricted visibility, what signal does a vessel trawling make?

One prolonged and two short blasts.

What lights does a vessel trawling show?

Green over White. Trawling at night.

What lights does a pilot vessel show?

White over red. Pilot ahead.

What lights does a sailing vessel show?

Red over Green. A sailing machine.

What lights does a fishing vessel show?

Red over white. Fishing at night.

What does a single white light indicate?

A vessel at anchor. Or a vessel under 7 meters propelled at less than 7 knots.

What does two white lights, with red and green mean?

Power driven vessel over 50 meters.

What does a red over red over red light mean?

A vessel constrained by draft.

A vessel aground under 100 meters in length makes what sounds?

3 bell strokes, rapid ringing of bell for 5 seconds, then three bell strokes.

If 100 meters or more in length? 3 bell strokes, rapid ringing of bell for 5 seconds, then three bell strokes forward, then rapid ringing of gong for 5 seconds at the stern.

What lights does a vessel aground show?

Red, Red, White. Aground at night.

You are being towed in your disabled boat, what signal do you sound?

One prolonged and three short blasts.

What signal does an anchored dredge sound while dredging?

One prolonged and two short blasts at least every two minutes.

You see a vessel heading for a reef on your radar. What should you do?

Sound two short blasts and one prolonged blast and attempt radio contact.

When and where should you use a strobe light to warn other vessels of your presence?

Never!

A vessel near you hoists a large towel above a yellow beach ball.
What, if anything does it mean?

Immediate help is needed...it is a distress signal.

As you approach a small open boat, the occupant stands up and waves his arms up and down at his sides. What is he telling you?

He needs immediate help...it is a distress signal.

All required navigational lights shall be shown from sunset to sunrise.

Side lights have an arch of visibility of 122.5 degrees.

A flashing yellow light, as defined by the NavRules, flashes at least 120 times per minute.

A dredge pipeline in Inland Waters is identified by?

Yellow lights flashing 50 to 70 times per minute.

An Air Cushion vessel operating in the non displacement mode exhibits in addition to her other required lights?

An all around yellow light flashing 120 times per minute or more.

A vessel less than 50 meters long propelled by power and sail must?

Display a white light showing through and unbroken arc of 225 degrees from dead ahead to 22.5 degrees on each side, sidelights and stern light.

In International Waters a power driven vessel less than 7 meters in length whose speed does not exceed 7 knots may exhibit?

A white all around light instead of all other lights.

Two white lights in a vertical line indicate?

An approaching power driven vessel.

In Inland Waters an amber light flashing once per second for three seconds followed by an interval of three seconds indicates?

A submarine on the surface.

A vessel over 7 meters long propelled by oars must?

If not displaying the lights for a sailing vessel of her length, have ready at hand an electric torch, which shall be exhibited in time to prevent collision.

In Inland Waters, you see two yellow lights, one above the other.
You are looking at?

A tug pushing ahead or towing alongside.

In fog, you see a vessel with a single diamond shape ahead of you.
She is?

The tug or last vessel of a tow more than 200 meters in length.

You see four white lights in a vertical line between a red light and a green one. You are looking at?

A tug with a tow over 200 meters. One white light for vessel under 50 meters, two white for tow over 200 meter, one light on tow.

In Inland Waters, you see two white lights and a yellow light flashing once a second between a red and green light. You are looking at?

A tug with a vessel being pushed ahead which conceals the tug's sidelights. Navrules page 61.

You see three green lights in a triangle above and to one side of a white light. What are you looking at?

A vessel sweeping mines heading away from you.

What lights would a vessel over 50 meters in length dredging while making way with a barge on her port side display when viewed from ahead?

Three green lights on her starboard side, a vertical line of white over white over red over white over red amidships, and three red lights on her port side.

White / White = Greater than 50 meters, Green / Green OK to pass on Starboard side. Red / Red = obstruction on Port side.

Red / White / Red = Underwater operations (dredging)

The special lights and shapes for a vessel aground need not be shown unless?

The vessel is over 12 meters long.

The day shapes for a vessel not under command, under way but not making way are?

Two balls. The lights would be two red...the captain is dead.

A purse seiner hampered by her gear may display?

Two yellow lights in a vertical line. These two lights shall flash alternately every second with equal light and occultation duration. She shall also display red over white all around lights.

The side lights of a power driven vessel under 12 meters in length shall be carried?

At least one meter below the masthead light.

Under International Rules, a sailing vessel when proceeding under sail and powered by machinery, is required to display what day shape?

A conical shape, apex downwards.

Same for Inland Rules, except vessels under 12 meters need not display day shape.

