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*Notes*

# Amendments

## to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972

Adopted on 19 November 1981

[The Amendments entered into force on 1 June 1983]

*Presented to Parliament  
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
by Command of Her Majesty  
September 1984*

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**INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION  
AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS  
FOR PREVENTING COLLISIONS AT SEA, 1972**

**RESOLUTION A.464 (XII)**

adopted on 19 November 1981, as amended

The Assembly,

Recalling Article VI of the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972<sup>(1)</sup>, on amendments to the Regulations,

Recalling also resolution A.431(XI) entitled "Recommendation concerning vessels restricted in their ability to manoeuvre when engaged in an operation for the maintenance of safety of navigation in a traffic separation scheme" including the decision to consider at its twelfth session the adoption of a corresponding amendment to Rule 10 of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972,

Having considered the above and other amendments to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee at its forty-fourth session and communicated to all Contracting Parties in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article VI of that Convention and also the recommendations of the Maritime Safety Committee concerning entry into force of these amendments,

1. Adopts, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article VI of the Convention, the amendments set out in the Annex to the present resolution;

2. Decides, in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article VI of the Convention, that each amendment shall enter into force on 1 June 1983 unless by 1 June 1982 more than one third of the Contracting Parties have notified their objection to the amendments;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in conformity with paragraph 3 of Article VI, to communicate this resolution to all Contracting Parties to the Convention for acceptance, together with copies to all Members of the Organization;

4. Invites Contracting Parties to submit any objections to the amendments not later than 1 June 1982 whereafter the amendments will be deemed to enter into force as determined in this resolution.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Treaty Series No. 77 (1977), Cmnd. 6962.

## ANNEX

### Amendments to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972

1. *Rule 1(c)*

Amend to read :

“(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 whistle signals shall, so far as possible, be such that they cannot be mistaken for any light, shape or signal authorized elsewhere under these Rules.”

2. *Rule 3(g)*

Replace the sentence immediately before sub-paragraph (i) to (vi) by the following :

“The term ‘vessels restricted in their ability to manoeuvre’ shall include but not be limited to :”.

3. *Rule 3(g)(v)*

Replace the word “minesweeping” by the word “mineclearance”.

4. *Rule 10(b)(iii)*

Replace the words “when joining or leaving from the side” by the words “when joining or leaving from either side”.

5. *Rule 10(d)*

Add the following sentence to the present text :

“However, vessels of less than 20 metres in length and sailing vessels may under all circumstances use inshore traffic zones.”

6. *Rule 10(e)*

Amend to read :

“(e) A vessel other than a crossing vessel or a vessel joining or leaving a lane shall not normally enter . . .”.

7. *Rule 10(k)*

Add the following new paragraph :

“(k) A vessel restricted in her ability to manoeuvre when engaged in an operation for the maintenance of safety of navigation in a traffic separation scheme is exempted from complying with this Rule to the extent necessary to carry out the operation.”

8. *Rule 10(1)*

Add the following new paragraph:

“(1) A vessel restricted in her ability to manoeuvre when engaged in an operation for the laying, servicing or picking up of a submarine cable, within a traffic separation scheme, is exempted from complying with this Rule to the extent necessary to carry out the operation.”

9. *Rule 13(a)*

Amend to read:

“(a) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Rules of Part B, Sections I and II . . .”

10. *Rule 22(d)*

Add a new paragraph:

“(d) In inconspicuous, partly submerged vessels or objects being towed: —a white all-round light, 3 miles.”

11. *Rule 23(c)*

Amend to read:

“(c) (i) A power-driven vessel of less than 12 metres in length may in lieu of the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule exhibit an all-round white and sidelights;

(ii) a power-driven vessel of less than 7 metres in length whose maximum speed does not exceed 7 knots may in lieu of the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule exhibit an all-round white light and shall, if practicable, also exhibit sidelights;

(iii) the masthead light or all-round white light on a power-driven vessel of less than 12 metres in length may be displaced from the fore and aft centreline of the vessel if centreline fitting is not practicable, provided that the sidelights are combined in one lantern which shall be carried on the fore and aft centreline of the vessel or located as nearly as practicable in the same fore and aft line as the masthead light or the all-round white light.”

12. *Rule 24(a)(i) and (c)(i)*

Insert “or (a)(ii)” after “in Rule 23(a)(i)” and delete “forward”.

13. *Rule 24(d)*

Replace the words “paragraphs (a) and (c)” in the first line by the words “paragraph (a) or (c)”.

14. *Rule 24(e)*

Amend the lead-in sentence to read:

“A vessel or object towed, other than those mentioned in paragraph (g) of this Rule, shall exhibit: ”

15. *Rule 24(g)*

Insert the following new paragraph (g):

- “(g) An inconspicuous, partly submerged vessel or object, or combination of such vessels or objects being towed, shall exhibit:
- (i) if it is less than 25 metres in breadth, one all-round white light at or near the forward end and one at or near the after end except that dracones need not exhibit a light at or near the forward end;
  - (ii) if it is 25 metres or more in breadth, two additional all-round white lights at or near the extremities of its breadth;
  - (iii) if it exceeds 100 metres in length, additional all-round white lights between the lights prescribed in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii) so that the distance between the lights shall not exceed 100 metres;
  - (iv) a diamond shape at or near the aftermast extremity of the last vessel or object being towed and if the length of the tow exceeds 200 metres an additional diamond shape where it can best be seen and located as far forward as is practicable.”

16. *Rule 24(h)*

Reletter existing paragraph (g), which becomes paragraph (h), and amend it to read:

- “(h) Where from any sufficient cause it is impracticable for a vessel or object being towed to exhibit the lights or shapes prescribed in paragraph (e) or (g) of this Rule, all possible measures shall be taken to light the vessel or object towed or at least to indicate the presence of such vessel or object.”

17. *Rule 24(i)*

Add the following new paragraph:

- “(i) Where from any sufficient cause it is impracticable for a vessel not normally engaged in towing operations to display the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) or (c) of this Rule, such vessel shall not be required to exhibit those lights when engaged in towing another vessel in distress or otherwise in need of assistance. All possible measures shall be taken to indicate the nature of the relationship between the towing vessel and the vessel being towed as authorized by Rule 36, in particular by illuminating the towline.”

18. *Rule 25(b)*

Amend “12 metres” to read “20 metres”.

19. *Rule 27(b)* (preamble)

Replace the word “minesweeping” by the word “mineclearance” in the first sentence.

20. *Rule 27(b)(iii)*

Replace the words "masthead lights" by the words "a masthead light or lights".

21. *Rule 27(c)*

Amend to read:

"A power-driven vessel engaged in a towing operation such as severely restricts the towing vessel and her tow in their ability to deviate from their course shall, in addition to the lights or shapes prescribed in Rule 24(a), exhibit the lights or shapes prescribed in sub-paragraphs (b)(i) and (ii) of this Rule."

22. *Rule 27(d)*

—Replace the words "paragraph (b)" by the words "sub-paragraphs (b)(i), (ii) and (iii)";

—delete existing sub-paragraph (iii);

—renumber existing sub-paragraph (iv) which becomes (iii) and amend it to read:

"(iii) when at anchor, the lights or shapes prescribed in this paragraph instead of the lights or shape prescribed in Rule 30."

23. *Rule 27(e)*

Amend to read:

"(e) Whenever the size of a vessel engaged in diving operations makes it impracticable to exhibit all lights and shapes prescribed in paragraph (d) of this Rule, the following shall be exhibited:

(i) three all-round lights in a vertical line where they can best be seen. The highest and lowest of these lights shall be red and the middle light shall be white;

(ii) a rigid replica of the International Code flag "A" not less than 1 metre in height. Measures shall be taken to ensure its all-round visibility."

24. *Rule 27(f)*

Amend to read:

"A vessel engaged in mineclearance operations shall in addition to the lights prescribed for a power-driven vessel in Rule 23 or to the lights or shape prescribed for a vessel at anchor in Rule 30 as appropriate, exhibit three all-round green lights or three balls. One of these lights or shapes shall be exhibited near the foremast head and one at each end of the fore yard. These lights or shapes indicate that it is dangerous for another vessel to approach within 1000 metres of the mineclearance vessel."

25. *Rule 27(g)*

Amend to read:

“(g) Vessels of less than 12 metres in length, except those engaged in diving operations, shall not be required to exhibit the lights and shapes prescribed in this Rule.”

26. *Rule 29(a)(iii)*

Amend to read:

“(a) (iii) when at anchor, in addition to the lights prescribed in subparagraph (i), the light, lights or shape prescribed in Rule 30 for vessels at anchor.”

27. *Rule 30(e)*

Delete “or aground” and amend “shapes prescribed in paragraphs (a), (b) or (d) of this Rule” to read:

“shape prescribed in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Rule.”

28. *Rule 30(f)*

Add the following new paragraph:

“(f) A vessel of less than 12 metres in length, when aground, shall not be required to exhibit the lights or shapes prescribed in sub-paragraphs (d)(i) and (ii) of this Rule.”

29. *Rule 33(a)*

In the last line replace “required” by “prescribed”.

30. *Rule 34(b)(iii)*

Add “to these Regulations” after the words “Annex I”.

31. *Rule 35(d)*

Insert a new paragraph (d) and reletter existing paragraphs (d) to (i) which become (e) to (j), as appropriate. “In paragraphs (g) and (i) (now relettered (h) and (j)), the cross-reference to paragraph ‘(f)’ should be corrected to read paragraph ‘(g)’.”

“(d) A vessel engaged in fishing, when at anchor, and a vessel restricted in her ability to manoeuvre when carrying out her work at anchor, shall instead of the signals prescribed in paragraph (g) of this Rule sound the signal prescribed in paragraph (c) of this Rule.”

32. *Rule 36*

Add the following at the end of the present text:

“Any light to attract the attention of another vessel shall be such that it cannot be mistaken for any aid to navigation. For the purpose of this Rule the use of high intensity intermittent or revolving lights, such as strobe lights, shall be avoided.”

33. *Rule 37*

Replace the word "prescribed" by "described".

34. *Rule 38*

Insert "to these Regulations" after the words "Annex I" in paragraphs (d)(i), (e), (f) and after the words "Annex III" in paragraph (g).

35. *Rule 38(h)*

Add the following new paragraph:

"(h) the repositioning of all-round lights resulting from the prescription of Section 9(b) of Annex I to these Regulations, permanent exemption."

36. *Annex I, Section 1*

Add the following sentence to the present text of the definition:

"This height shall be measured from the position vertically beneath the location of the light."

37. *Annex I, Section 2(e)*

Amend to read as follows:

"One of the two or three masthead lights prescribed for a power-driven vessel when engaged in towing or pushing another vessel shall be placed in the same position as either the forward masthead light or the after masthead light; provided that, if carried on the aftermast, the lowest after masthead light shall be at least 4.5 metres vertically higher than the forward masthead light."

38. *Annex I, Section 2(f)*

Amend to read:

- "(f) (i) The masthead light or lights prescribed in Rule 23(a) shall be so placed as to be above and clear of all other lights and obstructions except as described in sub-paragraph (ii).
- (ii) When it is impracticable to carry the all-round lights prescribed by Rule 27(b)(i) or Rule 28 below the masthead lights, they may be carried above the after masthead light(s) or vertically in between the forward masthead light(s) and after masthead light(s), provided that in the latter case the requirement of Section 3(c) of this Annex shall be complied with."

39. *Annex I, Section 2(i)(i)*

Replace all words of this sub-paragraph after the word "required" in the penultimate line by the following:

"be placed at a height of not less than 4 metres above the hull".

40. *Annex I, Section 2(i)(ii)*

Replace all words of this sub-paragraph after the word "required" in the penultimate line by the following:

"be placed at a height of not less than 2 metres above the hull".

41. *Annex I, Section 2(j)*

Delete "fishing" before "vessel".

42. *Annex I, Section 2(k)*

Insert "prescribed in Rule 30(a)(i)" between "light" and ", when two are carried".

Replace all words after "shall" in the second sentence by "be placed at a height of not less than 6 metres above the hull."

43. *Annex I, Section 3(b)*

In the first line replace "On a vessel" by "On a power-driven vessel".

44. *Annex I, Section 3(c)*

Add the following new paragraph:

"(c) When the lights prescribed in Rule 27(b)(i) or Rule 28 are placed vertically between the forward masthead light(s) and the after masthead light(s) these all-round lights shall be placed at a horizontal distance of not less than 2 metres from the fore and aft centreline of the vessel in the athwartship direction."

45. *Annex I, Section 5*

Insert in the first line after "The sidelights" the words "of vessels of 20 metres or more in length" and add the following sentence after the first sentence:

"On vessels of less than 20 metres in length the sidelights, if necessary to meet the requirements of Section 9 of this Annex, shall be fitted with inboard matt black screens."

46. *Annex I, Section 8*

Add the following sentence to the Note at the end of this section:

"This shall not be achieved by a variable control of the luminous intensity".

47. *Annex I, Section 9(a)(i)*

Replace "must" by "shall".

48. *Annex I, Section 9(a)(ii), last line*

Replace "limits" by "sectors".

49. *Annex I, Section 9(b)*

Insert "prescribed in Rule 30" between "lights" and ", which need not be . . .".

50. *Annex I, Section 10(a) and (b)*

Insert "as fitted" after "electric lights" in the introductory sentences of Section 10(a) and (b).

51. *Annex I, Section 13*

Amend to read as follows:

"The construction of lights and shapes and the installation of lights on board the vessel shall be to the satisfaction of the appropriate authority of the State whose flag the vessel is entitled to fly."

52. *Annex III, Section 1(d)*

Replace "4dB below the sound pressure" by "4dB below the prescribed sound pressure" and replace "10dB below the sound pressure" by "10dB below the prescribed sound pressure".

53. *Annex III, Section 2(a)*

Replace the words "1 metre" by the words "a distance of 1 metre from it".

54. *Annex III, Section 2(b)*

Amend the second sentence to read:

"the diameter of the mouth of the bell shall be not less than 300 mm for vessels of 20 metres or more in length, and shall be not less than 200 mm for vessels of 12 metres or more but of less than 20 metres in length."

55. *Annex III, Section 3*

Replace "the State where the vessel is registered" by "the State whose flag the vessel is entitled to fly".

56. *Rule 35(b)* (French text<sup>(2)</sup>)

Insert "à propulsion mécanique" between "navire" and "faisant route".

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(<sup>2</sup>) Not published.

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