

SUBCHAPTER E—INLAND NAVIGATION RULES

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Subpart A—General

§ 83.01 Application (Rule 1).

(a) *United States inland waters and Canadian waters of the Great Lakes.* These Rules apply to all vessels upon the inland waters of the United States, and to vessels of the United States on the Canadian waters of the Great Lakes to the extent that there is no conflict with Canadian law.

(b) *International Regulations.*

(1) These Rules constitute special rules made by an appropriate authority within the meaning of Rule 1(b) of the International Regulations.

(2) All vessels complying with the construction and equipment requirements of the International Regulations are considered to be in compliance with these Rules.

(c) *Special rules.* Nothing in these Rules shall interfere with the operation of any special rules made by the Secretary of the Navy with respect to additional station or signal lights and shapes or whistle signals for ships of war and vessels proceeding under convoy, or by the Secretary with respect to additional station or signal lights and shapes for fishing vessels engaged in fishing as a fleet. These additional station or signal lights and 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. Notice of such special rules shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and, after the effective date specified in

such notice, they shall have effect as if they were a part of these Rules.

(d) *Traffic regulation schemes; vessel traffic service regulations.* Traffic separation schemes may be established for the purpose of these Rules. Vessel traffic service regulations may be in effect in certain areas.

(e) *Alternative compliance.* Whenever the Secretary determines that a vessel or class of vessels of special construction or purpose cannot comply fully with the provisions 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-signaling appliances, the 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-signaling appliances, as the Secretary shall have determined to be the closest possible compliance with these Rules. The Secretary may issue a certificate of alternative compliance for a vessel or class of vessels specifying the closest possible compliance with these Rules. The Secretary of the Navy shall make these determinations and issue certificates of alternative compliance for vessels of the Navy.

(f) *Acceptance of certificates of alternative compliance from contracting parties to International Regulations.* The Secretary may accept a certificate of alternative compliance issued by a contracting party to the International Regulations if he determines that the alternative compliance standards of the contracting party are substantially the same as those of the United States.

§ 83.02 Responsibility (Rule 2).

(a) *Exoneration.* Nothing in these Rules shall exonerate any vessel, or the owner, master, or crew thereof, from the consequences of any neglect to comply with these Rules or of the neglect of any precaution which may be required by the ordinary practice of seamen, or by the special circumstances of the case.

(b) *Departure from rules when necessary to avoid immediate danger.* In construing and complying with these Rules due regard shall be had to all dangers of navigation and collision and

to any special circumstances, including the limitations of the vessels involved, which may make a departure from these Rules necessary to avoid immediate danger.

§ 83.03 Definitions (Rule 3).

For the purpose of these Rules and this chapter, except where the context otherwise requires:

(a) *Vessel* includes every description of water craft, including nondisplacement craft and seaplanes, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water;

(b) *Power-driven vessel* means any vessel propelled by machinery;

(c) *Sailing vessel* means any vessel under sail provided that propelling machinery, if fitted, is not being used;

(d) *Vessel engaged in fishing* means any vessel fishing with nets, lines, trawls, or other fishing apparatus which restricts maneuverability, but does not include a vessel fishing with trolling lines or other fishing apparatus which do not restrict maneuverability;

(e) *Seaplane* includes any aircraft designed to maneuver on the water;

(f) *Vessel not under command* means a vessel which, through some exceptional circumstance, is unable to maneuver as required by these Rules and is therefore unable to keep out of the way of another vessel;

(g) *Vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver* means a vessel which, from the nature of her work, is restricted in her ability to maneuver as required by these Rules and is therefore unable to keep out of the way of another vessel; vessels restricted in their ability to maneuver include, but are not limited to:

(1) A vessel engaged in laying, servicing, or picking up a navigation mark, submarine cable, or pipeline;

(2) A vessel engaged in dredging, surveying, or underwater operations;

(3) A vessel engaged in replenishment or transferring persons, provisions, or cargo while underway;

(4) A vessel engaged in the launching or recovery of aircraft;

(5) A vessel engaged in mineclearance operations; and

(6) A vessel engaged in a towing operation such as severely restricts the

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towing vessel and her tow in their ability to deviate from their course.

(h) *Underway* means that a vessel is not at anchor, or

made fast to the shore, or aground;

(i) *Length* and *breadth* of a vessel mean her length overall and greatest breadth;

(j) Vessels shall be deemed to be in sight of one another only when one can be observed visually from the other;

(k) *Restricted visibility* means any condition in which visibility is restricted by fog, mist, falling snow, heavy rainstorms, sandstorms, or any other similar causes;

(l) *Western Rivers* means the Mississippi River, its tributaries, South Pass, and Southwest Pass, to the navigational demarcation lines dividing the high seas from harbors, rivers, and other inland waters of the United States, and the Port Allen-Morgan City Alternate Route, and that part of the Atchafalaya River above its junction with the Port Allen-Morgan City Alternate Route including the Old River and the Red River;

(m) *Great Lakes* means the Great Lakes and their connecting and tributary waters including the Calumet River as far as the Thomas J. O'Brien Lock and Controlling Works (between mile 326 and 327), the Chicago River as far as the east side of the Ashland Avenue Bridge (between mile 321 and 322), and the Saint Lawrence River as far east as the lower exit of Saint Lambert Lock;

(n) *Secretary* means the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is Operating;

(o) *Inland Waters* means the navigable waters of the United States shoreward of the navigational demarcation lines dividing the high seas from harbors, rivers, and other inland waters of the United States and the waters of the Great Lakes on the United States side of the International Boundary;

(p) *Inland Rules* or *Rules* mean the Inland Navigational Rules and the annexes thereto, which govern the conduct of vessels and specify the lights, shapes, and sound signals that apply on inland waters; and

(q) *International Regulations* means the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, includ-

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ing annexes currently in force for the United States.

Subpart B—Steering and Sailing Rules

CONDUCT OF VESSELS IN ANY CONDITION OF VISIBILITY

§ 83.04 Application (Rule 4).

Rules in this subpart apply in any condition of visibility.

§ 83.05 Look-out (Rule 5).

Every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper look-out by sight and hearing as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances and conditions so as to make a full appraisal of the situation and of the risk of collision.

§ 83.06 Safe speed (Rule 6).

Every vessel shall at all times proceed at a safe speed so that she can take proper and effective action to avoid collision and be stopped within a distance appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions.

In determining a safe speed the following factors shall be among those taken into account:

(a) By all vessels:

(1) The state of visibility;

(2) The traffic density including concentration of fishing vessels or any other vessels;

(3) The maneuverability of the vessel with special reference to stopping distance and turning ability in the prevailing conditions;

(4) At night the presence of background light such as from shores lights or from back scatter of her own lights;

(5) The state of wind, sea, and current, and the proximity of navigational hazards;

(6) The draft in relation to the available depth of water.

(b) Additionally, by vessels with operational radar:

(1) The characteristics, efficiency and limitations of the radar equipment;

(2) Any constraints imposed by the radar range scale in use;

(3) The effect on radar detection of the sea state, weather, and other sources of interference;

(4) The possibility that small vessels, ice and other floating objects may not be detected by radar at an adequate range;

(5) The number, location, and movement of vessels detected by radar; and

(6) The more exact assessment of the visibility that may be possible when radar is used to determine the range of vessels or other objects in the vicinity.

§ 83.07 Risk of collision (Rule 7).

(a) *Determination if risk exists.* Every vessel shall use all available means appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions to determine if risk of collision exists. If there is any doubt such risk shall be deemed to exist.

(b) *Radar.* Proper use shall be made of radar equipment if fitted and operational, including long-range scanning to obtain early warning of risk of collision and radar plotting or equivalent systematic observation of detected objects.

(c) *Scanty information.* Assumptions shall not be made on the basis of scanty information, especially scanty radar information.

(d) *Considerations taken into account in determining if risk exists.* In determining if risk of collision exists the following considerations shall be among those taken into account:

(1) Such risk shall be deemed to exist if the compass bearing of an approaching vessel does not appreciably change; and

(2) Such risk may sometimes exist even when an appreciable bearing change is evident, particularly when approaching a very large vessel or a tow or when approaching a vessel at close range.

§ 83.08 Action to avoid collision (Rule 8).

(a) *General characteristics of action taken to avoid collision.* Any action taken to avoid collision shall, if the circumstances of the case admit, be positive, made in ample time and with due regard to the observance of good seamanship.

(b) *Readily apparent alterations in course or speed.* Any alteration of course or speed to avoid collision shall, if the circumstances of the case admit,

be large enough to be readily apparent to another vessel observing visually or by radar; a succession of small alterations of course or speed should be avoided.

(c) *Alteration of course to avoid close-quarters situation.* If there is sufficient sea room, alteration of course alone may be the most effective action to avoid a close-quarters situation provided that it is made in good time, is substantial and does not result in another close-quarters situation.

(d) *Action to result in passing at safe distance.* Action taken to avoid collision with another vessel shall be such as to result in passing at a safe distance. The effectiveness of the action shall be carefully checked until the other vessel is finally past and clear.

(e) *Slackening of vessel speed; stopping or reversing means of propulsion.* If necessary to avoid collision or allow more time to assess the situation, a vessel shall slacken her speed or take all way off by stopping or reversing her means of propulsion.

(f) *Early action to allow room for safe passage:*

(1) A vessel which, by any of these Rules, is required not to impede the passage or safe passage of another vessel shall, when required by the circumstances of the case, take early action to allow sufficient sea room for the safe passage of the other vessel.

(2) A vessel required not to impede the passage or safe passage of another vessel is not relieved of this obligation if approaching the other vessel so as to involve risk of collision and shall, when taking action, have full regard to the action which may be required by the Rules of this part.

(3) A vessel the passage of which is not to be impeded remains fully obliged to comply with the Rules of this part when the two vessels are approaching one another so as to involve risk of collision.

§ 83.09 Narrow channels (Rule 9).

(a) *Keeping near to outer limit of channel or fairway which lies on vessel's starboard side; exception.*

(1) A vessel proceeding along the course of a narrow channel or fairway shall keep as near to the outer limit of the channel or fairway which lies on

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her starboard side as is safe and practicable.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(1) and Rule 14(a), a power-driven vessel operating in narrow channels or fairways on the Great Lakes, Western Rivers, or waters specified by the Secretary, and proceeding downbound with a following current shall have the right-of-way over an upbound vessel, shall propose the manner and place of passage, and shall initiate the maneuvering signals prescribed by Rule 34(a)(1), as appropriate. The vessel proceeding upbound against the current shall hold as necessary to permit safe passing.

(b) *Vessels of less than 20 meters in length; sailing vessels.* A vessel of less than 20 meters in length or a sailing vessel shall not impede the passage of a vessel that can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway.

(c) *Vessels engaged in fishing.* A vessel engaged in fishing shall not impede the passage of any other vessel navigating within a narrow channel or fairway.

(d) *Crossing narrow channels or fairways.* A vessel shall not cross a narrow channel or fairway if such crossing impedes the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within that channel or fairway. The latter vessel shall use the danger signal prescribed in Rule 34(d) if in doubt as to the intention of the crossing vessel.

(e) *Overtaking vessels.*

(1) In a narrow channel or fairway when overtaking, the power-driven vessel intending to overtake another power-driven vessel shall indicate her intention by sounding the appropriate signal prescribed in Rule 34(c) and take steps to permit safe passing. The power-driven vessel being overtaken, if in agreement, shall sound the same signal and may, if specifically agreed to, take steps to permit safe passing. If in doubt she shall sound the danger signal prescribed in Rule 34(d).

(2) This Rule does not relieve the overtaking vessel of her obligation under Rule 13.

(f) *Areas of obscured visibility due to intervening obstructions.* A vessel nearing a bend or an area of a narrow channel or fairway where other vessels may be obscured by an intervening obstruction shall navigate with particular alert-

ness and caution and shall sound the appropriate signal prescribed in Rule 34(e).

(g) *Avoidance of anchoring in narrow channels.* Every vessel shall, if the circumstances of the case admit, avoid anchoring in a narrow channel.

§ 83.10 Traffic separation schemes (Rule 10).

(a) *Obligations under other Rules unaffected.* This Rule applies to traffic separation schemes and does not relieve any vessel of her obligation under any other Rule.

(b) *Duties for vessel using scheme.* A vessel using a traffic separation scheme shall:

(1) Proceed in the appropriate traffic lane in the general direction of traffic flow for that lane;

(2) So far as practicable keep clear of a traffic separation line or separation zone;

(3) Normally join or leave a traffic lane at the termination of the lane, but when joining or leaving from either side shall do so at as small an angle to the general direction of traffic flow as practicable.

(c) *Crossing traffic lanes.* A vessel shall, so far as practicable, avoid crossing traffic lanes but if obliged to do so shall cross on a heading as nearly as practicable at right angles to the general direction of traffic flow.

(d) *Use of inshore traffic lane.*

(1) A vessel shall not use an inshore traffic zone when she can safely use the appropriate traffic lane within the adjacent traffic separation scheme. However, vessels of less than twenty meters in length, sailing vessels, and vessels engaged in fishing may use the inshore traffic zone.

(2) Notwithstanding subparagraph (d)(1), a vessel may use an inshore traffic zone when en route to or from a port, offshore installation or structure, pilot station, or any other place situated within the inshore traffic zone, or to avoid immediate danger.

(e) *Entering separation zone or crossing separation line.* A vessel other than a crossing vessel or a vessel joining or leaving a lane shall not normally enter a separation zone or cross a separation line except:

(1) In cases of emergency to avoid immediate danger; or

(2) To engage in fishing within a separation zone.

(f) *Caution in areas near termination of scheme.* A vessel navigating in areas near the terminations of traffic separation schemes shall do so with particular caution.

(g) *Anchoring.* A vessel shall so far as practicable avoid anchoring in a traffic separation scheme or in areas near its terminations.

(h) *Avoidance of scheme.* A vessel not using a traffic separation scheme shall avoid it by as wide a margin as is practicable.

(i) *Fishing vessels.* A vessel engaged in fishing shall not impede the passage of any vessel following a traffic lane.

(j) *Power-driven vessels.* A vessel of less than twenty meters in length or a sailing vessel shall not impede the safe passage of a power-driven vessel following a traffic lane.

(k) *Exemption; maintenance of safety of navigation.* A vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver 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.

(l) *Exemption; laying, servicing, or picking up submarine cable.*

A vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver 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.

CONDUCT OF VESSELS IN SIGHT OF ONE ANOTHER

§ 83.11 Application (Rule 11).

Rules in this subpart apply to vessels in sight of one another.

§ 83.12 Sailing vessels (Rule 12).

(a) Keeping out of the way. When two sailing vessels are approaching one another, so as to involve risk of collision, one of them shall keep out of the way of the other as follows:

(1) When each has the wind on a different side, the vessel which has the

wind on the port side shall keep out of the way of the other;

(2) When both have the wind on the same side, the vessel which is to windward shall keep out of the way of the vessel which is to leeward; and

(3) If a vessel with the wind on the port side sees a vessel to windward and cannot determine with certainty whether the other vessel has the wind on the port or on the starboard side, she shall keep out of the way of the other.

(b) *Windward side.* For the purpose of this Rule the windward side shall be deemed to be the side opposite to that on which the mainsail is carried or, in the case of a square-rigged vessel, the side opposite to that on which the largest fore-and-aft sail is carried.

§ 83.13 Overtaking (Rule 13).

(a) *Overtaking vessel to keep out of the overtaken vessel's way.* Notwithstanding anything contained in Rules 4 through 18, any vessel overtaking any other shall keep out of the way of the vessel being overtaken.

(b) *Overtaking vessel defined.* A vessel shall be deemed to be overtaking when coming up with another vessel from a direction more than 22.5 degrees abaft her beam; that is, in such a position with reference to the vessel she is overtaking, that at night she would be able to see only the sternlight of that vessel but neither of her sidelights.

(c) *Assumption that vessel is overtaking another in cases of doubt.* When a vessel is in any doubt as to whether she is overtaking another, she shall assume that this is the case and act accordingly.

(d) *Overtaking vessel to become crossing vessel only when finally past and clear.* Any subsequent alteration of the bearing between the two vessels shall not make the overtaking vessel a crossing vessel within the meaning of these Rules or relieve her of the duty of keeping clear of the overtaken vessel until she is finally past and clear.

§ 83.14 Head-on situation (Rule 14).

(a) *Course alterations to starboard; port side passage.* Unless otherwise agreed, when two power-driven vessels are meeting on reciprocal or nearly reciprocal courses so as to involve risk of

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collision each shall alter her course to starboard so that each shall pass on the port side of the other.

(b) *Existence of head-on situation.* Such a situation shall be deemed to exist when a vessel sees the other ahead or nearly ahead and by night she could see the masthead lights of the other in a line or nearly in a line or both sidelights and by day she observes the corresponding aspect of the other vessel.

(c) *Assumption that head-on situation exists in cases of doubt.* When a vessel is in any doubt as to whether such a situation exists she shall assume that it does exist and act accordingly.

(d) *Vessel operating on Great Lakes, Western Rivers, or other specified waters, and proceeding downbound with following current.* Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this Rule, a power-driven vessel operating on the Great Lakes, Western Rivers, or waters specified by the Secretary, and proceeding downbound with a following current shall have the right-of-way over an upbound vessel, shall propose the manner of passage, and shall initiate the maneuvering signals prescribed by Rule 34(a)(1), as appropriate.

§ 83.15 Crossing situation (Rule 15).

(a) *Vessel which must keep out of the other vessel's way.* When two power-driven vessels are crossing so as to involve risk of collision, the vessel which has the other on her starboard side shall keep out of the way and shall, if the circumstances of the case admit, avoid crossing ahead of the other vessel.

(b) *Vessels crossing river.* Notwithstanding paragraph (a), on the Great Lakes, Western Rivers, or water specified by the Secretary, a power-driven vessel crossing a river shall keep out of the way of a power-driven vessel ascending or descending the river.

§ 83.16 Action by give-way vessel (Rule 16).

Every vessel which is directed to keep out of the way of another vessel shall, so far as possible, take early and substantial action to keep well clear.

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§ 83.17 Action by stand-on vessel (Rule 17).

(a) *Stand-on vessel to keep course and speed; action allowed when give-way vessel fails to take appropriate action.*

(1) Where one of two vessels is to keep out of the way, the other shall keep her course and speed.

(2) The latter vessel may, however, take action to avoid collision by her maneuver alone, as soon as it becomes apparent to her that the vessel required to keep out of the way is not taking appropriate action in compliance with these Rules.

(b) *Action by stand-on vessel allowed when action by give-way vessel alone cannot avoid collision.* When, from any cause, the vessel required to keep her course and speed finds herself so close that collision cannot be avoided by the action of the give-way vessel alone, she shall take such action as will best aid to avoid collision.

(c) *Crossing situations.* A power-driven vessel which takes action in a crossing situation in accordance with subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule to avoid collision with another power-driven vessel shall, if the circumstances of the case admit, not alter course to port for a vessel on her own port side.

(d) *Give-way vessel not relieved of obligation to keep out of the way.* This Rule does not relieve the give-way vessel of her obligation to keep out of the way.

§ 83.18 Responsibilities between vessels (Rule 18).

Except where Rules 9, 10, and 13 otherwise require:

(a) *Power-driven vessels underway.* A power-driven vessel underway shall keep out of the way of:

- (1) A vessel not under command;
- (2) A vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver;
- (3) A vessel engaged in fishing; and
- (4) A sailing vessel.

(b) *Sailing vessels underway.* A sailing vessel underway shall keep out of the way of:

- (1) A vessel not under command;
- (2) A vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver; and
- (3) A vessel engaged in fishing.

(c) *Vessels engaged in fishing when underway.* A vessel engaged in fishing

when underway shall, so far as possible, keep out of the way of:

- (1) A vessel not under command; and
- (2) A vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver.

(d) *Seaplanes on the water.* A seaplane on the water shall, in general, keep well clear of all vessels and avoid impeding their navigation. In circumstances, however, where risk of collision exists, she shall comply with the Rules of this part.

CONDUCT OF VESSELS IN RESTRICTED VISIBILITY

§ 83.19 Conduct of vessels in restricted visibility (Rule 19).

(a) *Vessels to which rule applies.* This Rule applies to vessels not in sight of one another when navigating in or near an area of restricted visibility.

(b) *Safe speed; engines ready for immediate maneuver.* Every vessel shall proceed at a safe speed adapted to the prevailing circumstances and conditions of restricted visibility. A power-driven vessel shall have her engines ready for immediate maneuver.

(c) *Due regard to prevailing circumstances and conditions.* Every vessel shall have due regard to the prevailing circumstances and conditions of restricted visibility when complying with Rules 4 through 10.

(d) *Detection of vessel by radar alone.* A vessel which detects by radar alone the presence of another vessel shall determine if a close-quarters situation is developing or risk of collision exists. If so, she shall take avoiding action in ample time, provided that when such action consists of an alteration of course, so far as possible the following shall be avoided:

- (1) An alteration of course to port for a vessel forward of the beam, other than for a vessel being overtaken; and
- (2) An alteration of course toward a vessel abeam or abaft the beam.

(e) *Reduction of speed to minimum.* Except where it has been determined that a risk of collision does not exist, every vessel which hears apparently forward of her beam the fog signal of another vessel, or which cannot avoid a close-quarters situation with another vessel forward of her beam, shall reduce her speed to the minimum at which she can

be kept on course. She shall if necessary take all her way off and, in any event, navigate with extreme caution until danger of collision is over.

Subpart C—Lights and Shapes

§ 83.20 Application (Rule 20).

(a) *Compliance in all weathers.* Rules in this part shall be complied with in all weathers.

(b) *Rules concerning lights complied with from sunset to sunrise; other lights.* The Rules concerning lights shall be complied with from sunset to sunrise, and during such times no other lights shall be exhibited, except such lights as cannot be mistaken for the lights specified in these Rules or do not impair their visibility or distinctive character, or interfere with the keeping of a proper lookout.

(c) *Lights during daylight hours in restricted visibility; other circumstances.* The lights prescribed by these Rules shall, if carried, also be exhibited from sunrise to sunset in restricted visibility and may be exhibited in all other circumstances when it is deemed necessary.

(d) *Rules concerning shapes; compliance by day.* The Rules concerning shapes shall be complied with by day.

(e) *Annex.* The lights and shapes specified in these Rules shall comply with the provisions of Annex I of these Rules.

§ 83.21 Definitions (Rule 21).

(a) *Masthead light* means a white light placed over the fore and aft centerline of the vessel showing an unbroken light over an arc of the horizon of 225 degrees and so fixed as to show the light from right ahead to 22.5 degrees abaft the beam on either side of the vessel, except that on a vessel of less than 12 meters in length the masthead light shall be placed as nearly as practicable to the fore and aft centerline of the vessel.

(b) *Sidelights* mean a green light on the starboard side and a red light on the port side each showing an unbroken light over an arc of the horizon of 112.5 degrees and so fixed as to show the light from right ahead to 22.5 degrees abaft the beam on its respective side. On a vessel of less than 20 meters

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in length the side lights may be combined in one lantern carried on the fore and aft centerline of the vessel, except that on a vessel of less than 12 meters in length the sidelights when combined in one lantern shall be placed as nearly as practicable to the fore and aft centerline of the vessel.

(c) *Sternlight* means a white light placed as nearly as practicable at the stern showing an unbroken light over an arc of the horizon of 135 degrees and so fixed as to show the light 67.5 degrees from right aft on each side of the vessel.

(d) *Towing light* means a yellow light having the same characteristics as the "sternlight" defined in paragraph (c) of this Rule.

(e) *All-round light* means a light showing an unbroken light over an arc of the horizon of 360 degrees.

(f) *Flashing light* means a light flashing at regular intervals at a frequency of 120 flashes or more per minute.

(g) *Special flashing light* means a yellow light flashing at regular intervals at a frequency of 50 to 70 flashes per minute, placed as far forward and as nearly as practicable on the fore and aft centerline of the tow and showing an unbroken light over an arc of the horizon of not less than 180 degrees nor more than 225 degrees and so fixed as to show the light from right ahead to abeam and no more than 22.5 degrees abaft the beam on either side of the vessel.

§ 83.22 Visibility of lights (Rule 22).

The lights prescribed in these Rules shall have an intensity as specified in Annex I to these Rules, so as to be visible at the following minimum ranges:

(a) *Vessel of 50 meters or more in length.* In a vessel of 50 meters or more in length:

- (1) A masthead light, 6 miles;
- (2) A sidelight, 3 miles;
- (3) A sternlight, 3 miles;
- (4) A towing light, 3 miles;
- (5) A white, red, green or yellow all-round light, 3 miles; and
- (6) A special flashing light, 2 miles.

(b) *Vessels of 12 meters or more in length but less than 50 meters in length.* In a vessel of 12 meters or more in length but less than 50 meters in length:

(1) A masthead light, 5 miles; except that where the length of the vessel is less than 20 meters, 3 miles;

- (2) A sidelight, 2 miles;
- (3) A sternlight, 2 miles;
- (4) A towing light, 2 miles;
- (5) A white, red, green or yellow all-round light, 2 miles; and
- (6) A special flashing light, 2 miles.

(c) *Vessels of less than 12 meters in length.* In a vessel of less than 12 meters in length:

- (1) A masthead light, 2 miles;
- (2) A sidelight, 1 mile;
- (3) A sternlight, 2 miles;
- (4) A towing light, 2 miles;
- (5) A white, red, green or yellow all-round light, 2 miles; and
- (6) A special flashing light, 2 miles.

(d) *An inconspicuous, partly submerged vessel or objects being towed.* In an inconspicuous, partly submerged vessel or objects being towed:

- (1) A white all-round light, 3 miles.

§ 83.23 Power-driven vessels underway (Rule 23).

(a) *Lights exhibited by power-driven vessels underway.* A power-driven vessel underway shall exhibit:

- (1) A masthead light forward;
- (2) A second masthead light abaft of and higher than the forward one; except that a vessel of less than 50 meters in length shall not be obliged to exhibit such light but may do so;
- (3) Sidelights; and
- (4) A sternlight.

(b) *Air-cushion vessels.* An air-cushion vessel when operating in the non-displacement mode shall, in addition to the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule, exhibit an all-round flashing yellow light where it can best be seen.

(c) *Alternative lights for power-driven vessels of less than 12 meters in length.* A power-driven vessel of less than 12 meters in length may, in lieu of the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule, exhibit an all-round white light and sidelights.

(d) *Power-driven vessels when operating on Great Lakes.* A power-driven vessel when operating on the Great Lakes may carry an all-round white light in lieu of the second masthead light and sternlight prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule. The light shall be carried

in the position of the second masthead light and be visible at the same minimum range.

§ 83.24 Towing and pushing (Rule 24).

(a) *A power-driven vessel when towing astern.* A power-driven vessel when towing astern shall exhibit:

(1) Instead of the light prescribed either in Rule 23(a)(1) or 23(a)(2), two masthead lights in a vertical line. When the length of the tow, measuring from the stern of the towing vessel to the after end of the tow exceeds 200 meters, three such lights in a vertical line;

(2) Sidelights;

(3) A sternlight;

(4) A towing light in a vertical line above the sternlight; and

(5) When the length of the tow exceeds 200 meters, a diamond shape where it can best be seen.

(b) *Pushing vessel and pushed vessel rigidly connected in composite unit.* When a pushing vessel and a vessel being pushed ahead are rigidly connected in a composite unit they shall be regarded as a power-driven vessel and exhibit the lights prescribed in Rule 23.

(c) *A power-driven vessel when pushing ahead or towing alongside.* A power-driven vessel when pushing ahead or towing alongside, except as required by paragraphs (b) and (1) of this Rule, shall exhibit:

(1) Instead of the light prescribed either in Rule 23(a)(1) or 23(a)(2), two masthead lights in a vertical line;

(2) Sidelights; and

(3) Two towing lights in a vertical line.

(d) *Compliance with other requirements.* A power-driven vessel to which paragraphs (a) or (c) of this Rule apply shall also comply with Rule 23(a)(1) and 23(a)(2).

(e) *Vessels being towed.* A vessel or object other than those referred to in paragraph (g) of this Rule being towed shall exhibit:

(1) Sidelights;

(2) A sternlight; and

(3) When the length of the tow exceeds 200 meters, a diamond shape where it can best be seen.

(f) *Vessels being towed alongside or pushed in a group.* Provided that any number of vessels being towed along-

side or pushed in a group shall be lighted as one vessel, except as provided in paragraph (3)—

(1) A vessel being pushed ahead, not being part of a composite unit, shall exhibit at the forward end, sidelights and a special flashing light;

(2) A vessel being towed alongside shall exhibit a sternlight and at the forward end, sidelights and a special flashing light; and

(3) When vessels are towed alongside on both sides of the towing vessels a sternlight shall be exhibited on the stern of the outboard vessel on each side of the towing vessel, and a single set of sidelights as far forward and as far outboard as is practicable, and a single special flashing light.

(g) *An inconspicuous, partly submerged vessel or object being towed.* An inconspicuous, partly submerged vessel or object being towed shall exhibit:

(1) If it is less than 25 meters in breadth, one all-round white light at or near each end;

(2) If it is 25 meters or more in breadth, four all-round white lights to mark its length and breadth;

(3) If it exceeds 100 meters in length, additional all-round white lights between the lights prescribed in subparagraphs (1) and (2) so that the distance between the lights shall not exceed 100 meters: Provided, that any vessels or objects being towed alongside each other shall be lighted as one vessel or object;

(4) A diamond shape at or near the aftermost extremity of the last vessel or object being towed; and

(5) The towing vessel may direct a searchlight in the direction of the tow to indicate its presence to an approaching vessel.

(h) *Alternative lighting of vessel or object being towed.* Where from any sufficient cause it is impracticable for a vessel or object being towed to exhibit the lights 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 the unlighted vessel or object.

(i) *Western Rivers or other specified waters; exception.* Notwithstanding paragraph (c), on the Western Rivers (except below the Huey P. Long Bridge on

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the Mississippi River) and on waters specified by the Secretary, a power-driven vessel when pushing ahead or towing alongside, except as paragraph (b) applies, shall exhibit:

(1) Sidelights; and

(2) Two towing lights in a vertical line.

(j) *Towing another vessel in distress or otherwise in need of assistance.* Where from any sufficient cause it is impracticable for a vessel not normally engaged in towing operations to display the lights prescribed by paragraph (a), (c) or (i) 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 assisted. The searchlight authorized by Rule 36 may be used to illuminate the tow.

§ 83.25 Sailing vessels underway and vessels under oars (Rule 25).

(a) *Sailing vessels underway.* A sailing vessel underway shall exhibit:

(1) Sidelights; and

(2) A sternlight.

(b) *Sailing vessels of less than 20 meters in length.* In a sailing vessel of less than 20 meters in length the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule may be combined in one lantern carried at or near the top of the mast where it can best be seen.

(c) *Additional lights.* A sailing vessel underway may, in addition to the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule, exhibit at or near the top of the mast, where they can best be seen, two all-round lights in a vertical line, the upper being red and the lower green, but these lights shall not be exhibited in conjunction with the combined lantern permitted by paragraph (b) of this Rule.

(d) *Sailing vessels of less than 7 meters in length; vessels under oars.*

(1) A sailing vessel of less than 7 meters in length shall, if practicable, exhibit the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) or (b) of this Rule, but if she does not, she shall have ready at hand an electric torch or lighted lantern showing a white light which shall be exhib-

ited in sufficient time to prevent collision.

(2) A vessel under oars may exhibit the lights prescribed in this Rule for sailing vessels, but if she does not, she shall have ready at hand an electric torch or lighted lantern showing a white light which shall be exhibited in sufficient time to prevent collision.

(e) *Vessels proceeding under sail.* A vessel proceeding under sail when also being propelled by machinery shall exhibit forward where it can best be seen a conical shape, apex downward. A vessel of less than 12 meters in length is not required to exhibit this shape, but may do so.

§ 83.26 Fishing vessels (Rule 26).

(a) *Exhibition of only prescribed lights and shapes.* A vessel engaged in fishing, whether underway or at anchor, shall exhibit only the lights and shapes prescribed in this Rule.

(b) *Vessels engaged in trawling.* A vessel when engaged in trawling, by which is meant the dragging through the water of a dredge net or other apparatus used as a fishing appliance, shall exhibit:

(1) Two all-round lights in a vertical line, the upper being green and the lower white, or a shape consisting of two cones with their apexes together in a vertical line one above the other;

(2) A masthead light abaft of and higher than the all-round green light; a vessel of less than 50 meters in length shall not be obliged to exhibit such a light but may do so; and

(3) When making way through the water, in addition to the lights prescribed in this paragraph, sidelights and a sternlight.

(c) *Vessels engaged in fishing other than trawling.* A vessel engaged in fishing, other than trawling, shall exhibit:

(1) Two all-round lights in a vertical line, the upper being green and the lower white, or a shape consisting of two cones with their apexes together in a vertical line one above the other;

(2) A masthead light abaft of and higher than the all-round green light; a vessel of less than 50 meters in length shall not be obliged to exhibit such a light but may do so; and

(3) When making way through the water, in addition to the lights prescribed in this paragraph, sidelights and a sternlight.

(c) *Vessels engaged in fishing other than trawling.* A vessel engaged in fishing, other than trawling, shall exhibit:

(1) Two all-round lights in a vertical line, the upper being red and the lower white, or a shape consisting of two cones with apexes together in a vertical line one above the other;

(2) When there is outlying gear extending more than 150 meters horizontally from the vessel, an all-round white light or a cone apex upward in the direction of the gear; and

(3) When making way through the water, in addition to the lights prescribed in this paragraph, sidelights and a sternlight.

(d) *Vessels engaged in fishing in close proximity to other vessels engaged in fishing.* The additional signals described in Annex II to these Rules apply to a vessel engaged in fishing in close proximity to other vessels engaged in fishing.

(e) *Vessels when not engaged in fishing.* A vessel when not engaged in fishing shall not exhibit the lights or shapes prescribed in this Rule, but only those prescribed for a vessel of her length.

§ 83.27 Vessels not under command or restricted in their ability to maneuver (Rule 27).

(a) *Vessels not under command.* A vessel not under command shall exhibit:

(1) Two all-round red lights in a vertical line where they can best be seen;

(2) Two balls or similar shapes in a vertical line where they can best be seen; and

(iii) When making way through the water, in addition to the lights prescribed in this paragraph, sidelights and a sternlight.

(b) *Vessels restricted in their ability to maneuver.* A vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver, except a vessel engaged in mineclearance operations, shall exhibit:

(1) 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;

(2) Three shapes in a vertical line where they can best be seen. The highest and lowest of these shapes shall be balls and the middle one a diamond;

(3) When making way through the water, masthead lights, sidelights and a sternlight, in addition to the lights prescribed in subparagraph (b)(1); and

(4) When at anchor, in addition to the lights or shapes prescribed in subparagraphs (b)(1) and (2), the light, lights or shapes prescribed in Rule 30.

(c) *Vessels engaged in towing operations.* A vessel engaged in a towing operation which 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 subparagraphs (b)(1) and (2) of this Rule, exhibit the lights or shape prescribed in Rule 24.

(d) *Vessels engaged in dredging or underwater operations.* A vessel engaged in dredging or underwater operations, when restricted in her ability to maneuver, shall exhibit the lights and shapes prescribed in subparagraphs (b)(1), (2), and (3) of this Rule and shall in addition, when an obstruction exists, exhibit:

(1) Two all-round red lights or two balls in a vertical line to indicate the side on which the obstruction exists;

(2) Two all-round green lights or two diamonds in a vertical line to indicate the side on which another vessel may pass; and

(3) When at anchor, the lights or shape prescribed by this paragraph, instead of the lights or shapes prescribed in Rule 30 for anchored vessels.

(e) *Vessels engaged in diving operations.* 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 instead be exhibited:

(1) 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.

(2) A rigid replica of the international Code flag "A" not less than 1 meter in height. Measures shall be taken to insure its all-round visibility.

(f) *Vessels engaged in mineclearance operations.* A vessel engaged in

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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 1,000 meters of the mineclearance vessel.

(g) *Vessels of less than 12 meters in length.* A vessel of less than 12 meters in length, except when engaged in diving operations, is not required to exhibit the lights or shapes prescribed in this Rule.

(h) *Signals of vessels in distress and requiring assistance.* The signals prescribed in this Rule are not signals of vessels in distress and requiring assistance. Such signals are contained in Annex IV to these Rules.

§ 83.28 [Reserved] (Rule 28).

§ 83.29 Pilot vessels (Rule 29).

(a) *Vessels engaged on pilotage duty.* A vessel engaged on pilotage duty shall exhibit:

(1) At or near the masthead, two all-round lights in a vertical line, the upper being white and the lower red;

(2) When underway, in addition, sidelights and a sternlight; and

(3) When at anchor, in addition to the lights prescribed in subparagraph (1), the anchor light, lights, or shape prescribed in Rule 30 for anchored vessels.

(b) *Vessels when not engaged on pilotage duty.* A pilot vessel when not engaged on pilotage duty shall exhibit the lights or shapes prescribed for a vessel of her length.

§ 83.30 Anchored vessels and vessels aground (Rule 30).

(a) *Vessels at anchor.* A vessel at anchor shall exhibit where it can best be seen:

(1) In the fore part, an all-round white light or one ball; and

(2) At or near the stern and at a lower level than the light prescribed in subparagraph (1), an all-round white light.

(b) *Vessels of less than 50 meters in length; alternative light.* A vessel of less than 50 meters in length may exhibit an all-round white light where it can best be seen instead of the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) *Illumination of decks.* A vessel at anchor may, and a vessel of 100 meters or more in length shall, also use the available working or equivalent lights to illuminate her decks.

(d) *Vessels aground.* A vessel aground shall exhibit the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) or (b) of this Rule and in addition, if practicable, where they can best be seen:

(1) Two all-round red lights in a vertical line; and

(2) Three balls in a vertical line.

(e) *Vessels of less than 7 meters in length when at anchor.* A vessel of less than 7 meters in length, when at anchor, not in or near a narrow channel, fairway, anchorage, or where other vessels normally navigate, shall not be required to exhibit the lights or shape prescribed in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Rule.

(f) *Vessels of less than 12 meters in length when aground.* A vessel of less than 12 meters in length when aground shall not be required to exhibit the lights or shapes prescribed in subparagraphs (d)(1) and (2) of this Rule.

(g) *Vessels of less than 20 meters in length while at anchor in special anchorage.* A vessel of less than 20 meters in length, when at anchor in a special anchorage area designated by the Secretary, shall not be required to exhibit the anchor lights and shapes required by this Rule.

§ 83.31 Seaplanes (Rule 31).

Where it is impracticable for a seaplane to exhibit lights and shapes of the characteristics or in the positions prescribed in the Rules of this part she shall exhibit lights and shapes as closely similar in characteristics and position as is possible.

Subpart D—Sound and Light Signals

§ 83.32 Definitions (Rule 32).

(a) *Whistle* means any sound signaling appliance capable of producing the prescribed blasts and which complies with

specifications in Annex III to these Rules.

(b) *Short blast* means a blast of about 1 second's duration.

(c) *Prolonged blast* means a blast of from 4 to 6 second's duration.

§ 83.33 Equipment for sound signals (Rule 33).

(a) *Vessels of 12 meters or more in length.* A vessel of 12 meters or more in length shall be provided with a whistle and a bell and a vessel of 100 meters or more in length shall, in addition, be provided with a gong, the tone and sound of which cannot be confused with that of the bell. The whistle, bell and gong shall comply with the specifications in Annex III to these Rules. The bell or gong or both may be replaced by other equipment having the same respective sound characteristics, provided that manual sounding of the prescribed signals shall always be possible.

(b) *Vessels of less than 12 meters in length.* A vessel of less than 12 meters in length shall not be obliged to carry the sound signaling appliances prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule but if she does not, she shall be provided with some other means of making an efficient sound signal.

§ 83.34 Maneuvering and warning signals (Rule 34).

(a) *Whistle signals.* When power-driven vessels are in sight of one another and meeting or crossing at a distance within half a mile of each other, each vessel underway, when maneuvering as authorized or required by these Rules:

(1) Shall indicate that maneuver by the following signals on her whistle: one short blast to mean "I intend to leave you on my port side"; two short blasts to mean "I intend to leave you on my starboard side"; and three short blasts to mean "I am operating astern propulsion".

(2) Upon hearing the one or two blast signal of the other shall, if in agreement, sound the same whistle signal and take the steps necessary to effect a safe passing. If, however, from any cause, the vessel doubts the safety of the proposed maneuver, she shall sound the danger signal specified in paragraph (d) of this Rule and each vessel shall take appropriate precautionary

action until a safe passing agreement is made.

(b) *Light signals.* A vessel may supplement the whistle signals prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule by light signals:

(1) These signals shall have the following significance: one flash to mean "I intend to leave you on my port side"; two flashes to mean "I intend to leave you on my starboard side"; three flashes to mean "I am operating astern propulsion";

(2) The duration of each flash shall be about 1 second; and

(3) The light used for this signal shall, if fitted, be one all-round white or yellow light, visible at a minimum range of 2 miles, synchronized with the whistle, and shall comply with the provisions of Annex I to these Rules.

(c) *Overtaking situations.* When in sight of one another:

(1) A power-driven vessel intending to overtake another power-driven vessel shall indicate her intention by the following signals on her whistle: one short blast to mean "I intend to overtake you on your starboard side"; two short blasts to mean "I intend to overtake you on your port side"; and

(2) The power-driven vessel about to be overtaken shall, if in agreement, sound a similar sound signal. If in doubt she shall sound the danger signal prescribed in paragraph (d).

(d) *Doubts or failure to understand signals.* When vessels in sight of one another are approaching each other and from any cause either vessel fails to understand the intentions or actions of the other, or is in doubt whether sufficient action is being taken by the other to avoid collision, the vessel in doubt shall immediately indicate such doubt by giving at least five short and rapid blasts on the whistle. This signal may be supplemented by a light signal of at least five short and rapid flashes.

(e) *Vessels in areas of obscured visibility due to intervening obstructions.* A vessel nearing a bend or an area of a channel or fairway where other vessels may be obscured by an intervening obstruction shall sound one prolonged blast. This signal shall be answered with a prolonged blast by any approaching vessel that may be within hearing around the

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bend or behind the intervening obstruction.

(f) *Use of one whistle only on a vessel.* If whistles are fitted on a vessel at a distance apart of more than 100 meters, one whistle only shall be used for giving maneuvering and warning signals.

(g) *Power-driven vessels leaving dock or berth.* When a power-driven vessel is leaving a dock or berth, she shall sound one prolonged blast.

(h) *Agreement between vessels using radiotelephone.* A vessel that reaches agreement with another vessel in a head-on, crossing, or overtaking situation, as for example, by using the radiotelephone as prescribed by the Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act (85 Stat. 164; 33 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*), is not obliged to sound the whistle signals prescribed by this Rule, but may do so. If agreement is not reached, then whistle signals shall be exchanged in a timely manner and shall prevail.

§ 83.35 Sound signals in restricted visibility (Rule 35).

In or near an area of restricted visibility, whether by day or night, the signals prescribed in this Rule shall be used as follows:

(a) *Power-driven vessels making way through the water.* A power-driven vessel making way through the water shall sound at intervals of not more than 2 minutes one prolonged blast.

(b) *Power-driven vessels underway but stopped and making no way through the water.* A power-driven vessel underway but stopped and making no way through the water shall sound at intervals of not more than 2 minutes two prolonged blasts in succession with an interval of about 2 seconds between them.

(c) *Vessels not under command; vessels restricted in ability to maneuver; sailing vessels; vessels engaged in fishing; vessels engaged in towing or pushing.* A vessel not under command; a vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver, whether underway or at anchor; a sailing vessel; a vessel engaged in fishing, whether underway or at anchor; and a vessel engaged in towing or pushing another vessel shall, instead of the signals prescribed in paragraphs (a) or (b) of this Rule, sound at intervals of not more than 2 minutes, three blasts in succes-

sion; namely, one prolonged followed by two short blasts.

(d) *Vessels towed.* A vessel towed or if more than one vessel is towed the last vessel of the tow, if manned, shall at intervals of not more than 2 minutes sound four blasts in succession; namely, one prolonged followed by three short blasts. When practicable, this signal shall be made immediately after the signal made by the towing vessel.

(e) *Pushing and pushed vessels connected in composite unit.* When a pushing vessel and a vessel being pushed ahead are rigidly connected in a composite unit they shall be regarded as a power-driven vessel and shall give the signals prescribed in paragraphs (a) or (b) of this Rule.

(f) *Vessels at anchor.* A vessel at anchor shall at intervals of not more than 1 minute ring the bell rapidly for about 5 seconds. In a vessel of 100 meters or more in length the bell shall be sounded in the forepart of the vessel and immediately after the ringing of the bell the gong shall be sounded rapidly for about 5 seconds in the after part of the vessel. A vessel at anchor may in addition sound three blasts in succession; namely, one short, one prolonged and one short blast, to give warning of her position and of the possibility of collision to an approaching vessel.

(g) *Vessels aground.* A vessel aground shall give the bell signal and if required the gong signal prescribed in paragraph (f) of this Rule and shall, in addition, give three separate and distinct strokes on the bell immediately before and after the rapid ringing of the bell. A vessel aground may in addition sound an appropriate whistle signal.

(h) *Vessels of less than 12 meters in length.* A vessel of less than 12 meters in length shall not be obliged to give the above-mentioned signals but, if she does not, shall make some other efficient sound signal at intervals of not more than 2 minutes.

(i) *Pilot vessels.* A pilot vessel when engaged on pilotage duty may in addition to the signals prescribed in paragraphs (a), (b) or (f) of this Rule sound an identity signal consisting of four short blasts.

(j) *Vessels anchored in special anchorage areas.* The following vessels shall not be required to sound signals as prescribed in paragraph (f) of this Rule when anchored in a special anchorage area designated by the Secretary:

(1) A vessel of less than 20 meters in length; and

(2) A barge, canal boat, scow, or other nondescript craft.

§ 83.36 Signals to attract attention (Rule 36).

If necessary to attract the attention of another vessel, any vessel may make light or sound signals that cannot be mistaken for any signal authorized elsewhere in these Rules, or may direct the beam of her searchlight in the direction of the danger, in such a way as not to embarrass any vessel.

§ 83.37 Distress signals (Rule 37).

When a vessel is in distress and requires assistance she shall use or exhibit the signals described in Annex IV to these Rules.

Subpart E—Exemptions

§ 83.38 Exemptions (Rule 38).

Any vessel or class of vessels, the keel of which is laid or which is at a corresponding stage of construction before December 24, 1980, provided that she complies with the requirements of—

(a) The Act of June 7, 1897, (30 Stat. 96), as amended (33 U.S.C. 154-232) for vessels navigating the waters subject to that statute;

(b) Section 4233 of the Revised Statutes (33 U.S.C. 301-356) for vessels navigating the waters subject to that statute;

(c) The Act of February 8, 1895 (28 Stat. 645), as amended (33 U.S.C. 241-295) for vessels navigating the waters subject to that statute; or

(d) Sections 3, 4, and 5 of the Act of April 25, 1940 (54 Stat. 163), as amended (46 U.S.C. 526b, c, and d) for motorboats navigating the waters subject to that statute; shall be exempted from compliance with the technical Annexes to these Rules as follows:

(1) The installation of lights with ranges prescribed in Rule 22, until 4 years after the effective date of the In-

land Navigational Rules Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-591), except that vessels of less than 20 meters in length are permanently exempt;

(2) The installation of lights with color specifications as prescribed in Annex I to these Rules, until 4 years after the effective date of the Inland Navigational Rules Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-591), except that vessels of less than 20 meters in length are permanently exempt;

(3) The repositioning of lights as a result of conversion to metric units and rounding off measurement figures, are permanently exempt; and

(4) The horizontal repositioning of masthead lights prescribed by Annex I to these Rules:

(i) On vessels of less than 150 meters in length, permanent exemption.

(ii) On vessels of 150 meters or more in length, until 9 years after the effective date of the Inland Navigational Rules Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-591).

(5) The restructuring or repositioning of all lights to meet the prescriptions of Annex I to these, until 9 years after the effective date of the Inland Navigational Rules Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-591);

(6) Power-driven vessels of 12 meters or more but less than 20 meters in length are permanently exempt from the provisions of Rule 23(a)(1) and 23(a)(4) provided that, in place of these lights, the vessel exhibits a white light aft visible all round the horizon; and

(7) The requirements for sound signal appliances prescribed in Annex III to these Rules, until 9 years after the effective date of the Inland Navigational Rules Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-591).

PART 84—ANNEX I: POSITIONING AND TECHNICAL DETAILS OF LIGHTS AND SHAPES

Sec.

84.01 Definitions.

84.03 Vertical positioning and spacing of lights.

84.05 Horizontal positioning and spacing of lights.

84.07 Details of location of direction-indicating lights for fishing vessels, dredgers and vessels engaged in underwater operations.

84.09 Screens.

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- 84.15 Intensity of lights.
- 84.17 Horizontal sectors.
- 84.19 Vertical sectors.
- 84.21 Intensity of non-electric lights.
- 84.23 Maneuvering light.
- 84.24 High-speed craft.
- 84.25 Approval. [Reserved]

AUTHORITY: 33 U.S.C. 2071; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.

SOURCE: CGD 81-008, 46 FR 62447, Dec. 24, 1981, unless otherwise noted.

§ 84.01 Definitions.

(a) The term *height above the hull* means height above the uppermost continuous deck. This height shall be measured from the position vertically beneath the location of the light.

(b) *High-speed craft* means a craft capable of maximum speed in meters per second (m/s) equal to or exceeding: $3.7\sqrt{\nabla}^{0.1667}$; where ∇ =displacement corresponding to the design waterline (meters³).

NOTE TO PARAGRAPH (b): The same formula expressed in pounds and knots is maximum speed in knots (kts) equal to or exceeding $1.98(\text{lbs})\sqrt{\nabla}^{0.1667}$; where ∇ =displacement corresponding to design waterline in pounds.

(c) The term *practical cut-off* means, for vessels 20 meters or more in length, 12.5 percent of the minimum luminous intensity (Table 84.15(b)) corresponding to the greatest range of visibility for which the requirements of Annex I are met.

(d) The term *Rule* or *Rules* means the Inland Navigation Rules contained in sec. 2 of the Inland Navigational Rules Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-591, 94 Stat. 3415, 33 U.S.C. 2001, December 24, 1980) as amended.

[CGD 81-008, 46 FR 62447, Dec. 24, 1981, as amended by CGD 94-011, 63 FR 5731, Feb. 4, 1998]

§ 84.03 Vertical positioning and spacing of lights.

(a) On a power-driven vessel of 20 meters or more in length the masthead lights shall be placed as follows:

(1) The forward masthead light, or if only one masthead light is carried, then that light, at a height above the hull of not less than 5 meters, and, if the breadth of the vessel exceeds 5 meters, then at a height above the hull not less than such breadth, so however that the light need not be placed at a

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greater height above the hull than 8 meters;

(2) When two masthead lights are carried the after one shall be at least 2 meters vertically higher than the forward one.

(b) The vertical separation of the masthead lights of power-driven vessels shall be such that in all normal conditions of trim the after light will be seen over and separate from the forward light at a distance of 1000 meters from the stem when viewed from water level.

(c) The masthead light of a power-driven vessel of 12 meters but less than 20 meters in length shall be placed at a height above the gunwale of not less than 2.5 meters.

(d) The masthead light, or the all-round light described in Rule 23(c), of a power-driven vessel of less than 12 meters in length shall be carried at least one meter higher than the sidelights.

(e) 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 the lowest after masthead light shall be at least 2 meters vertically higher than the highest forward masthead light.

(f)(1) 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 paragraph (f)(2) of this section.

(2) When it is impracticable to carry the all-round lights prescribed in Rule 27(b)(i) 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 § 84.05(d) shall be complied with.

(g) The sidelights of a power-driven vessel shall be placed at least one meter lower than the forward masthead light. They shall not be so low as to be interfered with by deck lights.

(h) [Reserved]

(i) When the Rules prescribe two or three lights to be carried in a vertical line, they shall be spaced as follows:

(1) On a vessel of 20 meters in length or more such lights shall be spaced not less than 1 meter apart, and the lowest of these lights shall, except where a towing light is required, be placed at a height of not less than 4 meters above the hull;

(2) On a vessel of less than 20 meters in length such lights shall be spaced not less than 1 meter apart and the lowest of these lights shall, except where a towing light is required, be placed at a height of not less than 2 meters above the gunwale;

(3) When three lights are carried they shall be equally spaced.

(j) The lower of the two all-round lights prescribed for a vessel when engaged in fishing shall be a height above the sidelights not less than twice the distance between the two vertical lights.

(k) The forward anchor light prescribed in Rule 30(a)(i), when two are carried, shall not be less than 4.5 meters above the after one. On a vessel of 50 meters or more in length this forward anchor light shall be placed at a height or not less than 6 meters above the hull.

[CGD 81-008, 46 FR 62447, Dec. 24, 1981, as amended by CGD 89-024, 55 FR 3947, Feb. 6, 1990]

§ 84.05 Horizontal positioning and spacing of lights.

(a) Except as specified in paragraph (e) of this section, when two masthead lights are prescribed for a power-driven vessel, the horizontal distance between them must not be less than one quarter of the length of the vessel but need not be more than 50 meters. The forward light must be placed not more than one half of the length of the vessel from the stem.

(b) On a power-driven vessel of 20 meters or more in length the sidelights shall not be placed in front of the forward masthead lights. They shall be placed at or near the side of the vessel.

(c) When the lights prescribed in Rule 27(b)(i) 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 meters from the fore and aft centerline of the vessel in the athwartship direction.

(d) When only one masthead light is prescribed for a power-driven vessel, this light must be exhibited forward of amidships. For a vessel of less than 20 meters in length, the vessel shall exhibit one masthead light as far forward as is practicable.

(e) On power-driven vessels 50 meters but less than 60 meters in length operated on the Western Rivers, and those waters specified in § 89.25, the horizontal distance between masthead lights shall not be less than 10 meters.

[CGD 81-008, 46 FR 62447, Dec. 24, 1981, as amended by CGD 88-07, 53 FR 10533, April 1, 1988; CGD 94-011, 63 FR 5731, Feb. 4, 1998]

§ 84.07 Details of location of direction-indicating lights for fishing vessels, dredgers and vessels engaged in underwater operations.

(a) The light indicating the direction of the outlying gear from a vessel engaged in fishing as prescribed in Rule 26(c)(ii) shall be placed at a horizontal distance of not less than 2 meters and not more than 6 meters away from the two all-round red and white lights. This light shall be placed not higher than the all-round white light prescribed in Rule 26(c)(i) and not lower than the sidelights.

(b) The lights and shapes on a vessel engaged in dredging or underwater operations to indicate the obstructed side and/or the side on which it is safe to pass, as prescribed in Rule 27(d)(i) and (ii), shall be placed at the maximum practical horizontal distance, but in no case less than 2 meters, from the lights or shapes prescribed in Rule 27(b)(i) and (ii). In no case shall the upper of these lights or shapes be at a greater height than the lower of the three lights or shapes prescribed in Rule 27(b)(i) and (ii).

§ 84.09 Screens.

(a) The sidelights of vessels of 20 meters or more in length shall be fitted with mat black inboard screens and meet the requirements of § 84.17. On vessels of less than 20 meters in length, the sidelights, if necessary to meet the requirements of § 84.17, shall be fitted with mat black inboard screens. With a combined lantern, using a single

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vertical filament and a very narrow division between the green and red sections, external screens need not be fitted.

(b) On power-driven vessels less than 12 meters in length constructed after July 31, 1983, the masthead light, or the all-round light described in Rule 23(c) shall be screened to prevent direct illumination of the vessel forward of the operator's position.

§ 84.11 Shapes.

(a) Shapes shall be black and of the following sizes:

(1) A ball shall have a diameter of not less than 0.6 meter;

(2) A cone shall have a base diameter of not less than 0.6 meter and a height equal to its diameter;

(3) A diamond shape shall consist of two cones (as defined in paragraph (a)(2) of this section) having a common base.

(b) The vertical distance between shapes shall be at least 1.5 meter.

(c) In a vessel of less than 20 meters in length shapes of lesser dimensions but commensurate with the size of the vessel may be used and the distance apart may be correspondingly reduced.

§ 84.13 Color specification of lights.

(a) The chromaticity of all navigation lights shall conform to the following standards, which lie within the boundaries of the area of the diagram specified for each color by the International Commission on Illumination (CIE), in the "Colors of Light Signals", which is incorporated by reference. It is Publication CIE No. 2.2. (TC-1.6), 1975, and is available from the Illumination Engineering Society, 345 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017 and is available for inspection at the Coast Guard, Ocean Engineering Division (CG-432), (CG-432), 2100 2nd St., SW., Stop 7901, Washington, DC 20593-7901. It is also available for inspection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202-741-6030, or go to: http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register.

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(b) The boundaries of the area for each color are given by indicating the corner co-ordinates, which are as follows:

(1) *White:*

x 0.525 0.525 0.452 0.310 0.310 0.443
y 0.382 0.440 0.440 0.348 0.283 0.382

(2) *Green:*

x 0.028 0.009 0.300 0.203
y 0.385 0.723 0.511 0.356

(3) *Red:*

x 0.680 0.660 0.735 0.721
y 0.320 0.320 0.265 0.259

(4) *Yellow:*

x 0.612 0.618 0.575 0.575
y 0.382 0.382 0.425 0.406

[CGD81-008, 46 FR 62447, Dec. 24, 1981, as amended at 69 FR 18803, Apr. 9, 2004; USCG-2004-18057, 69 FR 34925, June 23, 2004; USCG-2008-0179, 73 FR 35002, June 19, 2008; USCG-2010-0351, 75 FR 36281, June 25, 2010]

§ 84.15 Intensity of lights.

(a) The minimum luminous intensity of lights shall be calculated by using the formula:

$$I=3.43 \times 10^6 \times T \times D^2 \times K^{-D}$$

where I is luminous intensity in candelas under service conditions,
T is threshold factor 2×10^{-7} lux,
D is range of visibility (luminous range) of the light in nautical miles,
K is atmospheric transmissivity. For prescribed lights the value of K shall be 0.8, corresponding to a meteorological visibility of approximately 13 nautical miles.

(b) A selection of figures derived from the formula is given in Table 84.15(b):

TABLE 84.15(B)

Range of visibility (luminous range) of light in nautical miles D	Minimum luminous intensity of light in candelas for K=0.8 I
1	0.9
2	4.3
3	12
4	27
5	52
6	94

§ 84.17 Horizontal sectors.

(a)(1) In the forward direction, sidelights as fitted on the vessel shall show the minimum required intensities. The intensities shall decrease to

reach practical cut-off between 1 and 3 degrees outside the prescribed sectors.

(2) For sternlights and masthead lights and at 22.5 degrees abaft the beam for sidelights, the minimum required intensities shall be maintained over the arc of the horizon up to 5 degrees within the limits of the sectors prescribed in Rule 21. From 5 degrees within the prescribed sectors the intensity may decrease by 50 percent up to the prescribed limits; it shall decrease steadily to reach practical cut-off at not more than 5 degrees outside the prescribed sectors.

(b) All-round lights shall be so located as not to be obscured by masts, topmasts or structures within angular sectors of more than 6 degrees, except anchor lights prescribed in Rule 30, which need not be placed at an impracticable height above the hull, and the all-round white light described in Rule 23(d), which may not be obscured at all.

(c) If it is impracticable to comply with paragraph (b) of this section by exhibiting only one all-round light, two all-round lights shall be used suitably positioned or screened to appear, as far as practicable, as one light at a minimum distance of one nautical mile.

NOTE TO PARAGRAPH (c): Tow unscreened all-round lights that are 1.28 meters apart or less will appear as one light to the naked eye at a distance of one nautical mile.

[CGD 81-008, 46 FR 62447, Dec. 24, 1981, as amended by CGD 94-011, 63 FR 5731, Feb. 4, 1998]

§ 84.19 Vertical sectors.

(a) The vertical sectors of electric lights as fitted, with the exception of lights on sailing vessels underway and on unmanned barges, shall ensure that:

(1) At least the required minimum intensity is maintained at all angles from 5 degrees above to 5 degrees below the horizontal;

(2) At least 60 percent of the required minimum intensity is maintained from 7.5 degrees above to 7.5 degrees below the horizontal.

(b) In the case of sailing vessels underway the vertical sectors of electric lights as fitted shall ensure that:

(1) At least the required minimum intensity is maintained at all angles from 5 degrees above to 5 degrees below the horizontal;

(2) At least 50 percent of the required minimum intensity is maintained from 25 degrees above to 25 degrees below the horizontal.

(c) In the case of unmanned barges the minimum required intensity of electric lights as fitted shall be maintained on the horizontal.

(d) In the case of lights other than electric lights these specifications shall be met as closely as possible

[CGD 81-008, 46 FR 62447, Dec. 24, 1981, as amended by CGD 89-024, 55 FR 3947, Feb. 6, 1990]

§ 84.21 Intensity of non-electric lights.

Non-electric lights shall so far as practicable comply with the minimum intensities, as specified in the Table given in § 84.15.

§ 84.23 Maneuvering light.

Notwithstanding the provisions of § 84.03(f), the maneuvering light described in Rule 34(b) shall be placed approximately in the same fore and aft vertical plane as the masthead light or lights and, where practicable, at a minimum height of one-half meter vertically above the forward masthead light, provided that it shall be carried not less than one-half meter vertically above or below the after masthead light. On a vessel where only one masthead light is carried the maneuvering light, if fitted, shall be carried where it can best be seen, not less than one-half meter vertically apart from the masthead light.

§ 84.24 High-speed craft.

(a) The masthead light of high-speed craft with a length to breadth ratio of less than 3.0 may be placed at a height related to the breadth lower than that prescribed in § 84.03(a)(1), provided that the base angle of the isosceles triangle formed by the side lights and masthead light when seen in end elevation is not less than 27 degrees as determined by the formula in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) The minimum height of masthead light above sidelights is to be determined by the following formula: $\tan 27^\circ = X/Y$; where Y is the horizontal distance between the sidelights and X is

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the height of the forward masthead light.

[CGD 94-011, 63 FR 5731, Feb. 4, 1998. Redesignated by USCG-1999-5832, 64 FR 34712, June 29, 1999]

§ 84.25 Approval.

The construction of lights and shapes and the installation of lights on board the vessel must satisfy the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard.

[USCG-1999-6580, 66 FR 55091, Nov. 1, 2001]

PART 85—ANNEX II: ADDITIONAL SIGNALS FOR FISHING VESSELS FISHING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY

Sec.

85.1 General.

85.3 Signals for trawlers.

85.5 Signals for purse seiners.

AUTHORITY: Sec. 3, Pub. L. 96-591; 49 CFR 1.46(n)(14).

SOURCE: CGD 81-006, 46 FR 61845, Dec. 21, 1981, unless otherwise noted.

§ 85.1 General.

The lights mentioned herein shall, if exhibited in pursuance of Rule 26(d), be placed where they can best be seen. They shall be at least 0.9 meter apart but at a lower level than lights prescribed in Rule 26(b)(i) and (c)(i) contained in the Inland Navigational Rules Act of 1980, as amended (33 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.). The lights shall be visible all around the horizon at a distance of at least 1 mile but at a lesser distance from the lights prescribed by these Rules for fishing vessels.

§ 85.3 Signals for trawlers.

(a) Vessels when engaged in trawling, whether using demersal or pelagic gear, may exhibit:

(1) When shooting their nets: two white lights in a vertical line;

(2) When hauling their nets: one white light over one red light in a vertical line;

(3) When the net has come fast upon an obstruction: two red lights in a vertical line.

(b) Each vessel engaged in pair trawling may exhibit:

(1) By night, a searchlight directed forward and in the direction of the other vessel of the pair;

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(2) When shooting or hauling their nets or when their nets have come fast upon an obstruction, the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 85.5 Signals for purse seiners.

Vessels engaged in fishing with purse seine gear may exhibit two yellow lights in a vertical line. These lights shall flash alternately every second and with equal light and occultation duration. These lights may be exhibited only when the vessel is hampered by its fishing gear.

PART 86—ANNEX III: TECHNICAL DETAILS OF SOUND SIGNAL APPLIANCES

Subpart A—Whistles

Sec.

86.01 Frequencies and range of audibility.

86.03 Limits of fundamental frequencies.

86.05 Sound signal intensity and range of audibility.

86.07 Directional properties.

86.09 Positioning of whistles.

86.11 Fitting of more than one whistle.

86.13 Combined whistle systems.

86.15 Towing vessel whistles.

Subpart B—Bell or Gong

86.21 Intensity of signal.

86.23 Construction.

Subpart C—Approval

86.31 Approval. [Reserved]

AUTHORITY: Sec. 3, Pub. L. 96-591; 49 CFR 1.46(n)(14).

SOURCE: CGD 81-009, 46 FR 61848, Dec. 21, 1981, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Whistles

§ 86.01 Frequencies and range of audibility.

The fundamental frequency of the signal shall lie within the range 70-525 Hz. The range of audibility of the signal from a whistle shall be determined by those frequencies, which may include the fundamental and/or one or more higher frequencies, which lie within the frequency ranges and provide the sound pressure levels specified in § 86.05.

§ 86.03 Limits of fundamental frequencies.

To ensure a wide variety of whistle characteristics, the fundamental frequency of a whistle shall be between the following limits:

- (a) 70–200 Hz, for a vessel 200 meters or more in length;
- (b) 130–350 Hz, for a vessel 75 meters but less than 200 meters in length;
- (c) 250–525 Hz, for a vessel less than 75 meters in length.

§ 86.05 Sound signal intensity and range of audibility.

A whistle on a vessel shall provide, in the direction of the forward axis of the whistle and at a distance of 1 meter from it, a sound pressure level in at least one 1/3-octave band of not less than the appropriate figure given in Table 86.05 within the following frequency ranges (±1 percent):

- (a) 130–1200 Hz, for a vessel 75 meters or more in length;
- (b) 250–1600 Hz, for a vessel 20 meters but less than 75 meters in length;
- (c) 250–2100 Hz, for a vessel 12 meters but less than 20 meters in length.

TABLE 86.05

Length of vessel in meters	Fundamental frequency range (Hz)	For measured frequencies (Hz)	1/3-octave band level at 1 meter in dB referred to $2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ N/m}^2$	Audibility range in nautical miles
200 or more	70–200	130–180	145	2
		180–250	143	
		250–1200	140	
75 but less than 200	130–350	130–180	140	1.5
		180–250	138	
		250–1200	134	
20 but less than 75	250–525	250–450	130	1.0
		450–800	125	
		800–1600	121	
12 but less than 20	250–525	250–450	120	0.5
		450–800	115	
		800–2100	111	

NOTE. The range of audibility in the table above is for information and is approximately the range at which a whistle may usually be heard on its forward axis in conditions of still air on board a vessel having average background noise level at the listening posts (taken to be 68 dB in the octave band centered on 250 Hz and 63 dB in the octave band centered on 500 Hz).

In practice the range at which a whistle may be heard is extremely variable and depends critically on weather conditions; the values given can be regarded as typical but under conditions of strong wind or high ambient noise level at the listening post the range may be much reduced.

§ 86.07 Directional properties.

The sound pressure level of a directional whistle shall be not more than 4 dB below the sound pressure level specified in § 86.05 in any direction in the horizontal plane within ±45 degrees of the forward axis. The sound pressure level of the whistle in any other direction in the horizontal plane shall not be more than 10 dB less than the sound pressure level specified for the forward axis, so that the range of audibility in any direction will be at least half the range required on the forward axis. The sound pressure level shall be measured in that one-third octave band which determines the audibility range.

§ 86.09 Positioning of whistles.

(a) When a directional whistle is to be used as the only whistle on the vessel and is permanently installed, it shall be installed with its forward axis directed forward.

(b) A whistle shall be placed as high as practicable on a vessel, in order to reduce interception of the emitted sound by obstructions and also to minimize hearing damage risk to personnel. The sound pressure level of the vessel's own signal at listening posts shall not exceed 110 dB(A) and so far as practicable should not exceed 100 dB(A).

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§ 86.11 Fitting of more than one whistle.

If whistles are fitted at a distance apart of more than 100 meters, they shall not be sounded simultaneously.

§ 86.13 Combined whistle systems.

(a) A combined whistle system is a number of whistles (sound emitting sources) operated together. For the purposes of the Rules a combined whistle system is to be regarded as a single whistle.

(b) The whistles of a combined system shall:

(1) Be located at a distance apart of not more than 100 meters,

(2) Be sounded simultaneously,

(3) Each have a fundamental frequency different from those of the others by at least 10 Hz, and

(4) Have a tonal characteristic appropriate for the length of vessel which shall be evidenced by at least two-thirds of the whistles in the combined system having fundamental frequencies falling within the limits prescribed in § 86.03, or if there are only two whistles in the combined system, by the higher fundamental frequency falling within the limits prescribed in § 86.03.

NOTE: If due to the presence of obstructions the sound field of a single whistle or of one of the whistles referred to in § 86.11 is likely to have a zone of greatly reduced signal level, a combined whistle system should be fitted so as to overcome this reduction.

§ 86.15 Towing vessel whistles.

A power-driven vessel normally engaged in pushing ahead or towing alongside may, at all times, use a whistle whose characteristic falls within the limits prescribed by § 86.03 for the longest customary composite length of the vessel and its tow.

Subpart B—Bell or Gong

§ 86.21 Intensity of signal.

A bell or gong, or other device having similar sound characteristics shall produce a sound pressure level of not less than 110 dB at 1 meter.

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§ 86.23 Construction.

Bells and gongs shall be made of corrosion-resistant material and designed to give a clear tone. The diameter of the mouth of the bell shall be not less than 300 mm for vessels of more than 20 meters in length, and shall be not less than 200 mm for vessels of 12 to 20 meters in length. The mass of the striker shall be not less than 3 percent of the mass of the bell. The striker shall be capable of manual operation. Note: When practicable, a power-driven bell striker is recommended to ensure constant force.

Subpart C—Approval

§ 86.31 Approval. [Reserved]

PART 87—ANNEX IV: DISTRESS SIGNALS

Sec.

87.1 Need of assistance.

87.3 Exclusive use.

87.5 Supplemental signals.

AUTHORITY: 33 U.S.C. 2071; 49 CFR 1.46.

§ 87.1 Need of assistance.

The following signals, used or exhibited either together or separately, indicate distress and need of assistance:

(a) A gun or other explosive signal fired at intervals of about a minute.

(b) A continuous sounding with any fog-signaling apparatus;

(c) Rockets or shells, throwing red stars fired one at a time at short intervals;

(d) A signal made by radiotelegraphy or by any other signaling method consisting of the group . . . — — — . . . (SOS) in the Morse Code,

(e) A signal sent by radiotelephony consisting of the spoken word “May-day”;

(f) The International Code Signal of distress indicated by N.C.

(g) A signal consisting of a square flag having above or below it a ball or anything resembling a ball;

(h) Flames on the vessel (as from a burning tar barrel, oil barrel, etc.);

(i) A rocket parachute flare or a hand flare showing a red light;

(j) A smoke signal giving off orange-colored smoke;

(k) Slowly and repeatedly raising and lowering arms outstretched to each side;

(l) The radiotelegraph alarm signal;

(m) The radiotelephone alarm signal;

(n) Signals transmitted by emergency position-indicating radio beacons;

(o) Signals transmitted by radiocommunication systems, including survival craft radar transponders meeting the requirements of 47 CFR 80.1095.

(p) A high intensity white light flashing at regular intervals from 50 to 70 times per minute.

[CGD 81-007, 47 FR 16174, Apr. 15, 1982, as amended by CGD 89-024, 55 FR 3947, Feb. 6, 1990; CGD 94-011, 63 FR 5732, Feb. 4, 1998]

§ 87.3 Exclusive use.

The use or exhibition of any of the foregoing signals except for the purpose of indicating distress and need of assistance and the use of other signals which may be confused with any of the above signals is prohibited.

[CGD 81-007, 47 FR 16174, Apr. 15, 1982]

§ 87.5 Supplemental signals.

Attention is drawn to the relevant sections of the International Code of Signals, the Merchant Ship Search and Rescue Manual, the International Telecommunication Union Radio Regulations and the following signals:

(a) A piece of orange-colored canvas with either a black square and circle or other appropriate symbol (for identification from the air);

(b) A dye marker.

[CGD 81-007, 47 FR 16174, Apr. 15, 1982, as amended by CGD 89-024, 55 FR 3947, Feb. 6, 1990]

PART 88—ANNEX V: PILOT RULES

Sec.

88.01 Purpose and applicability.

88.03 Definitions.

88.05 Copy of rules.

88.09 Temporary exemption from light and shape requirements when operating under bridges.

88.11 Law enforcement vessels.

88.12 Public safety activities.

88.13 Lights on moored barges.

88.15 Lights on dredge pipelines.

AUTHORITY: 33 U.S.C. 2071.

SOURCE: CGD 80-158, 47 FR 16175, Apr. 15, 1982, unless otherwise noted.

§ 88.01 Purpose and applicability.

This part applies to all vessels operating on United States inland waters and to United States vessels operating on the Canadian waters of the Great Lakes to the extent there is no conflict with Canadian law.

§ 88.03 Definitions.

The terms used in this part have the same meaning as defined in the Inland Navigational Rules Act of 1980.

§ 88.05 Copy of rules.

The operator of each self-propelled vessel 12 meters or more in length shall carry on board and maintain for ready reference a copy of the Inland Navigation Rules.

[USCG-2005-21531, 70 FR 36349, June 23, 2005]

§ 88.09 Temporary exemption from light and shape requirements when operating under bridges.

A vessel's navigation lights and shapes may be lowered if necessary to pass under a bridge.

§ 88.11 Law enforcement vessels.

(a) Law enforcement vessels may display a flashing blue light when engaged in direct law enforcement or public safety activities. This light must be located so that it does not interfere with the visibility of the vessel's navigation lights.

(b) The blue light described in this section may be displayed by law enforcement vessels of the United States and the States and their political subdivisions.

[CGD 80-158, 47 FR 16175, Apr. 15, 1982, as amended by CGD 90-032, 56 FR 33385, July 22, 1991]

§ 88.12 Public safety activities.

(a) Vessels engaged in government sanctioned public safety activities, and commercial vessels performing similar functions, may display an alternately flashing red and yellow light signal. This identification light signal must be located so that it does not interfere with the visibility of the vessel's navigation lights. The identification light

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signal may be used only as an identification signal and conveys no special privilege. Vessels using the identification light signal during public safety activities must abide by the Inland Navigation Rules, and must not presume that the light or the exigency gives them precedence or right of way.

(b) Public safety activities include but are not limited to patrolling marine parades, regattas, or special water celebrations; traffic control; salvage; firefighting; medical assistance; assisting disabled vessels; and search and rescue.

[CGD 90-032, 56 FR 33386, July 22, 1991]

§ 88.13 Lights on moored barges.

(a) The following barges shall display at night and if practicable in periods of restricted visibility the lights described in paragraph (b) of this section:

(1) Every barge projecting into a buoyed or restricted channel.

(2) Every barge so moored that it reduces the available navigable width of any channel to less than 80 meters.

(3) Barges moored in groups more than two barges wide or to a maximum width of over 25 meters.

(4) Every barge not moored parallel to the bank or dock.

(b) Barges described in paragraph (a) of this section shall carry two unobstructed all-round white lights of an intensity to be visible for at least 1 nautical mile and meeting the technical requirements as prescribed in § 84.15 of this chapter.

(c) A barge or group of barges at anchor or made fast to one or more mooring buoys or other similar device, in lieu of the provisions of Inland Navigation Rule 30, may carry unobstructed all-round white lights of an intensity to be visible for at least 1 nautical mile that meet the requirements of § 84.15 of this chapter and shall be arranged as follows:

(1) Any barge that projects from a group formation, shall be lighted on its outboard corners.

(2) On a single barge moored in water where other vessels normally navigate on both sides of the barge, lights shall be placed to mark the corner extremities of the barge.

(3) On barges moored in group formation, moored in water where other ves-

sels normally navigate on both sides of the group, lights shall be placed to mark the corner extremities of the group.

(d) The following are exempt from the requirements of this section:

(1) A barge or group of barges moored in a slip or slough used primarily for mooring purposes.

(2) A barge or group of barges moored behind a pierhead.

(3) A barge less than 20 meters in length when moored in a special anchorage area designated in accordance with § 109.10 of this chapter.

(e) Barges moored in well-illuminated areas are exempt from the lighting requirements of this section. These areas are as follows:

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- (1) Mile 293.2 to 293.9
- (3) Mile 295.2 to 296.1
- (5) Mile 297.5 to 297.8
- (7) Mile 298 to 298.2
- (9) Mile 298.6 to 298.8
- (11) Mile 299.3 to 299.4
- (13) Mile 299.8 to 300.5
- (15) Mile 303 to 303.2
- (17) Mile 303.7 to 303.9
- (19) Mile 305.7 to 305.8
- (21) Mile 310.7 to 310.9
- (23) Mile 311 to 311.2
- (25) Mile 312.5 to 312.6
- (27) Mile 313.8 to 314.2
- (29) Mile 314.6
- (31) Mile 314.8 to 315.3
- (33) Mile 315.7 to 316
- (35) Mile 316.8
- (37) Mile 316.85 to 317.05
- (39) Mile 317.5
- (41) Mile 318.4 to 318.9
- (43) Mile 318.7 to 318.8
- (45) Mile 320 to 320.3
- (47) Mile 320.6
- (49) Mile 322.3 to 322.4
- (51) Mile 322.8
- (53) Mile 322.9 to 327.2

CALUMET SAG CHANNEL

- (61) Mile 316.5

LITTLE CALUMET RIVER

- (71) Mile 321.2
- (73) Mile 322.3

CALUMET RIVER

- (81) Mile 328.5 to 328.7
- (83) Mile 329.2 to 329.4
- (85) Mile 330 west bank to 330.2
- (87) Mile 331.4 to 331.6
- (89) Mile 332.2 to 332.4
- (91) Mile 332.6 to 332.8

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(101) Mile 126.8
(103) Mile 191

[CGD 80-158, 47 FR 16175, Apr. 15, 1982, as amended by CGD 94-011, 63 FR 5732, Feb. 4, 1998]

§ 88.15 Lights on dredge pipelines.

Dredge pipelines that are floating or supported on trestles shall display the following lights at night and in periods of restricted visibility.

(a) One row of yellow lights. The lights must be:

(1) Flashing 50 to 70 times per minute,

(2) Visible all around the horizon,

(3) Visible for at least 2 miles on a clear dark night,

(4) Not less than 1 and not more than 3.5 meters above the water,

(5) Approximately equally spaced, and

(6) Not more than 10 meters apart where the pipeline crosses a navigable channel. Where the pipeline does not cross a navigable channel the lights must be sufficient in number to clearly show the pipeline's length and course.

(b) Two 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). The lights must be:

(1) Visible all around the horizon, and

(2) Visible for at least 2 miles on a clear dark night, and

(3) One meter apart in a vertical line with the lower light at the same height above the water as the flashing yellow light.

PART 89—INLAND NAVIGATION RULES: IMPLEMENTING RULES

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AUTHORITY: 33 U.S.C. 2071; 49 CFR 1.46(n)(14).

SOURCE: CGD 80-157, 47 FR 13801, Apr. 1, 1982, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Certificate of Alternative Compliance

§ 89.1 Definitions.

As used in this subpart:

Inland Rules refers to the Inland Navigation Rules contained in the Inland Navigational Rules Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-591) and the technical annexes established under that act.

A vessel of special construction or purpose means a vessel designed or modified to perform a special function and whose arrangement is thereby made relatively inflexible.

Interference with the special function of the vessel occurs when installation or use of lights, shapes, or sound-signaling appliances under the Inland Rules prevents or significantly hinders the operation in which the vessel is usually engaged.

[CGD 80-157, 47 FR 13801, Apr. 1, 1982, as amended by CGD 83-028, 49 FR 33876, Aug. 27, 1984]

§ 89.3 General.

Vessels of special construction or purpose which cannot fully comply with the light, shape, and sound signal provisions of the Inland Rules without interfering with their special function may instead meet alternative requirements. The Chief of the Marine Safety Division in each Coast Guard District Office makes this determination and requires that alternative compliance be as close as possible with the Inland Rules. These regulations set out the procedure by which a vessel may be certified for alternative compliance. The information collection and record-keeping requirements in §§ 89.5 and 89.18 have been approved by the Office

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of Management and Budget under OMB control No. 1625–0019.

[CGD 80–157, 47 FR 13801, Apr. 1, 1982, as amended by USCG–2006–25150, 71 FR 39208, July 12, 2006]

§ 89.5 Application for a Certificate of Alternative Compliance.

(a) The owner, builder, operator, or agent of a vessel of special construction or purpose who believes the vessel cannot fully comply with the Inland Rules light, shape, or sound signal provisions without interference with its special function may apply for a determination that alternative compliance is justified. The application must be in writing, submitted to the Chief of the Marine Safety Division of the Coast Guard District in which the vessel is being built or operated, and include the following information:

- (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the applicant.
- (2) The identification of the vessel by its:
 - (i) Official number;
 - (ii) Shipyard hull number;
 - (iii) Hull identification number; or
 - (iv) State number, if the vessel does not have an official number or hull identification number.
- (3) Vessel name and home port, if known.
- (4) A description of the vessel's area of operation.
- (5) A description of the provision for which the Certificate of Alternative Compliance is sought, including:
 - (i) The Inland Rules Rule or Annex section number for which the Certificate of Alternative Compliance is sought;
 - (ii) A description of the special function of the vessel that would be interfered with by full compliance with the provision of that Rule or Annex section; and
 - (iii) A statement of how full compliance would interfere with the special function of the vessel.
- (6) A description of the alternative installation that is in closest possible compliance with the applicable Inland Navigation Rules Rule or Annex section.
- (7) A copy of the vessel's plans or an accurate scale drawing that clearly shows:

(i) The required installation of the equipment under the Inland Rules,

(ii) The proposed installation of the equipment for which certification is being sought, and

(iii) Any obstructions that may interfere with the equipment when installed in:

- (A) The required location; and
- (B) The proposed location.

(b) The Coast Guard may request from the applicant additional information concerning the application.

[CGD 80–157, 47 FR 13801, Apr. 1, 1982; 47 FR 18332, Apr. 29, 1982]

§ 89.9 Certificate of Alternative Compliance: Contents.

The Chief of the Marine Safety Division issues the Certificate of Alternative Compliance to the vessel based on a determination that it cannot comply fully with Inland Rules light, shape, and sound signal provisions without interference with its special function. This Certificate includes:

- (a) Identification of the vessel as supplied in the application under § 89.5(a)(2);
- (b) The provision of the Inland Rules for which the Certificate authorizes alternative compliance;
- (c) A certification that the vessel is unable to comply fully with the Inland Rules light, shape, and sound signal requirements without interference with its special function;
- (d) A statement of why full compliance would interfere with the special function of the vessel;
- (e) The required alternative installation;
- (f) A statement that the required alternative installation is in the closest possible compliance with the Inland Rules without interfering with the special function of the vessel;
- (g) The date of issuance;
- (h) A statement that the Certificate of Alternative Compliance terminates when the vessel ceases to be usually engaged in the operation for which the certificate is issued.

§ 89.17 Certificate of Alternative Compliance: Termination.

The Certificate of Alternative Compliance terminates if the information

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supplied under § 89.5(a) or the Certificate issued under § 89.9 is no longer applicable to the vessel.

§ 89.18 Record of certification of vessels of special construction or purpose.

(a) Copies of Certificates of Alternative Compliance and documentation concerning Coast Guard vessels are available for inspection at the offices of Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, (CG-5), 2100 2nd St. SW., Stop 7355, Washington, DC 20593-7355.

(b) The owner or operator of a vessel issued a Certificate shall ensure that the vessel does not operate unless the Certificate of Alternative Compliance or a certified copy of that Certificate is on board the vessel and available for inspection by Coast Guard personnel.

[CGD 80-187, 47 FR 13801, Apr. 1, 1982, as amended by CGD 88-052, 53 FR 25120, July 1, 1988; CGD 96-026, 61 FR 33663, June 28, 1996; CGD 97-023, 62 FR 33363, June 19, 1997; USCG-2002-12471, 67 FR 41332, June 18, 2002; USCG-2010-0351, 75 FR 36281, June 25, 2010]

Subpart B—Waters Upon Which Certain Inland Navigation Rules Apply

§ 89.21 Purpose.

Inland Navigation Rules 9(a)(ii), 14(d), and 15(b) apply to the Great Lakes, and along with 24(i), apply on the “Western Rivers” as defined in Rule 3(1), and to additional specifically designated waters. The purpose of this Subpart is to specify those additional waters upon which Inland Navigation Rules 9(a)(ii), 14(d), 15(b), and 24(i) apply.

[CGD 85-081, 51 FR 4592, Feb. 6, 1986]

§ 89.23 Definitions.

As used in this subpart:

Inland Rules refers to the Inland Navigation Rules contained in the Inland Navigational Rules Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-591, 33 U.S.C. 2001 et. seq.) and the technical annexes established under that Act.

[CGD 83-028, 49 FR 33876, Aug. 27, 1984]

§ 89.25 Waters upon which Inland Rules 9(a)(ii), 14(d), and 15(b) apply.

Inland Rules 9(a)(ii), 14(d), and 15(b) apply on the Great Lakes, the Western Rivers, and the following specified waters:

- (a) Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.
- (b) Tombigbee River.
- (c) Black Warrior River.
- (d) Alabama River.
- (e) Coosa River.
- (f) Mobile River above the Cochrane Bridge at St. Louis Point.
- (g) Flint River.
- (h) Chattahoochee River.
- (i) The Apalachicola River above its confluence with the Jackson River.

[CGD 91-050, 58 FR 27625, May 10, 1993]

§ 89.27 Waters upon which Inland Rule 24(i) applies.

(a) Inland Rule 24(i) applies on the Western Rivers and the specified waters listed in § 89.25 (a) through (i).

(b) Inland Rule 24(i) applies on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway from St. Marks, Florida, to the Rio Grande, Texas, including the Morgan City-Port Allen Alternate Route and the Galveston-Freeport Cutoff, except that a power-driven vessel pushing ahead or towing alongside shall exhibit the lights required by Inland Rule 24(c), while transiting within the following areas:

(1) St. Andrews Bay from the Hathaway Fixed Bridge at Mile 284.6 East of Harvey Locks (EHL) to the DuPont Fixed Bridge at Mile 295.4 EHL.

(2) Pensacola Bay, Santa Rosa Sound and Big Lagoon from the Light “10” off of Trout Point at Mile 176.9 EHL to the Pensacola Fixed Bridge at Mile 189.1 EHL.

(3) Mobile Bay and Bon Secour Bay from the Dauphin Island Causeway Fixed Bridge at Mile 127.7 EHL to Little Point Clear at Mile 140 EHL.

(4) Mississippi Sound from Grand Island Waterway Light “1” at Mile 53.8 EHL to Light “40” off the West Point of Dauphin Island at Mile 118.7 EHL.

(5) The Mississippi River at New Orleans, Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet Canal and the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal from the junction of the Harvey Canal and the Algiers Alternate Route at Mile 6.5 West of Harvey Locks

(WHL) to the Michoud Canal at Mile 18 EHL.

(6) The Calcasieu River from the Calcasieu Lock at Mile 238.6 WHL to the Ellender Lift Bridge at Mile 243.6 WHL.

(7) The Sabine Neches Canal from mile 262.5 WHL to mile 291.5 WHL.

(8) Bolivar Roads from the Bolivar Assembling Basin at Mile 346 WHL to the Galveston Causeway Bridge at Mile 357.3 WHL.

(9) Freeport Harbor from Surfside Beach Fixed Bridge at Mile 393.8 WHL to the Bryan Beach Pontoon Bridge at Mile 397.6 WHL.

(10) Matagorda Ship Channel area of Matagorda Bay from Range "K" Front Light at Mile 468.7 WHL to the Port O'Connor Jetty at Mile 472.2 WHL.

(11) Corpus Christi Bay from Redfish Bay Day Beacon "55" at Mile 537.4 WHL when in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway main route or from the north end of Lydia Ann Island Mile 531.1A when in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Alternate Route to Corpus Christi Bay LT 76 at Mile 543.7 WHL.

(12) Port Isabel and Brownsville Ship Channel south of the Padre Island Causeway Fixed Bridge at Mile 665.1 WHL.

[CGD 91-050, 58 FR 27625, May 10, 1993]

PART 90—INLAND RULES: INTERPRETATIVE RULES

Sec.

90.1 Purpose.

90.3 Pushing vessel and vessel being pushed: Composite unit.

90.5 Lights for moored vessels.

90.7 Sidelights for unmanned barges.

AUTHORITY: 33 U.S.C. 2071; 49 CFR 1.46(n)(14).

SOURCE: CGD 83-011, 48 FR 51622, Nov. 10, 1983, unless otherwise noted.

§ 90.1 Purpose.

This part contains the interpretative rules for the Inland Rules. These interpretative rules are intended as a guide to assist the public and promote compliance with the Inland Rules.

§ 90.3 Pushing vessel and vessel being pushed: Composite unit.

Rule 24(b) of the Inland Rules states that when a pushing vessel and a vessel being pushed ahead are rigidly connected in a composite unit, they are regarded as a power-driven vessel and must exhibit the lights prescribed in Rule 23. A "composite unit" is interpreted to be the combination of a pushing vessel and a vessel being pushed ahead that are rigidly connected by mechanical means so they react to sea and swell as one vessel. Mechanical means does not include lines, wires, hawsers, or chains.

§ 90.5 Lights for moored vessels.

A *vessel at anchor* includes a vessel made fast to one or more mooring buoys or other similar device attached to the ocean floor. Such vessels may be lighted as a vessel at anchor in accordance with Rule 30, or may be lighted on the corners in accordance with 33 CFR 88.13.

[CGD 94-011, 63 FR 5732, Feb. 4, 1998]

§ 90.7 Sidelights for unmanned barges.

An unmanned barge being towed may use the exception of COLREGS Rule 24(h). However, this exception only applies to the vertical sector requirements for sidelights.

[CGD 94-011, 63 FR 5732, Feb. 4, 1998]