



























Navigational Aids

International Flags and Pennants

Alphabet Flags

	A – alfa		N – november
	B – bravo		O – oscar
	C – charlie		P – papa
	D – delta		Q – quebec
	E – echo		R – romeo
	F – foxtrot		S – sierra
	G – golf		T – tango
	H – hotel		U – uniform
	I – india		V – victor
	J – juliett		W – whiskey
	K – kilo		X – xray
	L – lima		Y – yankee
	M – mike		Z – zulu





- A** I have a diver down; keep well clear at slow speed.
- B*** I am taking in, or discharging, or carrying dangerous goods.
- C** Yes (affirmative or *the significance of the previous group should be read in the affirmative*).
- D*** Keep clear of me; I am maneuvering with difficulty.
- E*** I am altering my course to starboard.
- F** I am disabled; communicate with me.
- G** I require a pilot. When made by fishing vessels operating in close proximity on the fishing grounds it means: *I am hauling nets*.
- H*** I have a pilot onboard.
- I*** I am altering my course to port.
- J** I am on fire and have dangerous cargo onboard; keep well clear of me.
- K** I wish to communicate with you.
- L** You should stop your vessel instantly.
- M** My vessel is stopped and making no way through the water.
- N** No (negative or *the significance of the previous group should be read in the negative*). This signal may be given only visually or by sound. For voice or radio transmission the signal should be *NO*.
- O** Man overboard.
- P** In harbor – All persons should report onboard as the vessel is about to proceed to sea. At sea – It may be used by fishing vessels to mean: *My nets have come fast upon an obstruction*.
- Q** My vessel is healthy and I request free pratique.
- S*** My engines are going astern.
- T*** Keep clear of me; I am engaged in pair trawling.
- U** You are running into danger.
- V** I require assistance.
- W** I require medical assistance.
- X** Stop carrying out your intentions and watch for my signals.
- Y** I am dragging my anchor.
- Z** I require a tug. When made by fishing vessels operating in close proximity on the fishing grounds it means: *I am shooting nets*.

Notes:











1. Signals of letters marked by an asterisk (*) when made by sound may only be made in compliance with the requirements of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, Rules 15 and 28.
2. Signals K and S have special meanings as landing signals for small boats and crews or persons in distress. (International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1960, Chapter V, Regulation 16.)

Substitutes

– Enables the same flag to be repeated one or more times in the same group of flags.

	1st substitute
	2nd substitute
	3rd substitute
	Code

Numeral Pennants

	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8
	9
	0

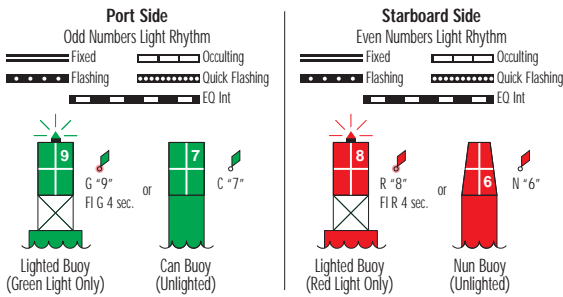


Navigational Aids

Buoys, Storm Warnings, Daymarks, Information and Regulatory Markers

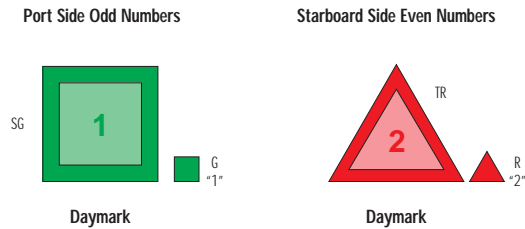
Aids to Navigation on Navigable Waters Except Western Rivers and Intracoastal Waterway

Lateral Aids Marking the Sides of Channels as Seen When Entering from Seaward



Port hand aids are green with green lights. Starboard hand aids are red with red lights.
Note: White lights are no longer used on port and starboard hand aids in waters used by international mariners. However, in the western rivers including the Mississippi River system above Baton Rouge, white lights may still be used on crossing aids.

Lateral Aids Marking the Sides of Channels as Seen When Entering from Seaward

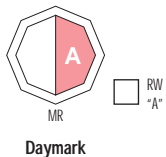


Special Aids

Aids used to mark these areas or systems will be all yellow:

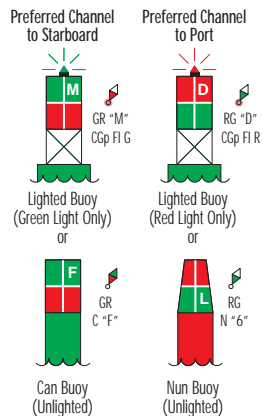
- Ocean Data Acquisition Systems (ODAS)
- Traffic Separation Schemes where conventional channel marking would be confusing
- Dredging Buoys when conventional channel markings would be confusing
- Fish Net areas
- Spoil Grounds
- Military Exercise zones
- Anchorage areas

Preferred Channel Aids
 (Mark Bifurcations)
 (No Numbers – May be Lettered)
 Light Rhythm
 Composite Group Flashing (2+1)

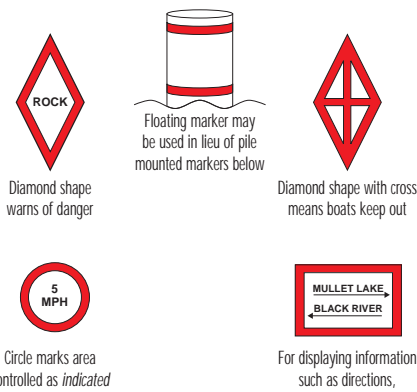


Red and white buoys are spherical or have a red spherical topmark.

Note: Lighted and/or sound safe water buoys have a red spherical topmark.



Information and Regulatory Markers



Light Aids will show yellow lights. Orange and white regulatory markers and information markers will not be changed.

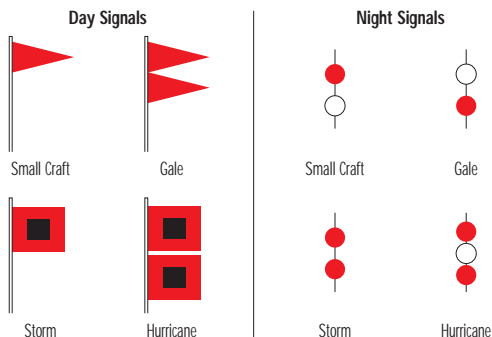
Chart Your Course

The wise skipper charts a course before casting off. Another one of the most important duties is making certain insurance for the vessel is complete and provides the most comprehensive coverage.

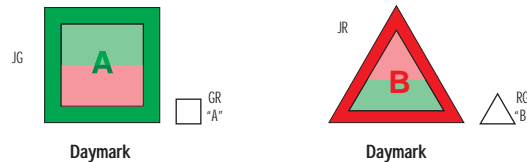
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Small Craft, Gale, Storm and Hurricane Warnings



Preferred Channel Aids



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