

Welcome to Nick Richards



Nick Richards is a Boating Services Officer (BSO) with NSW Maritime, and is based in Sydney Harbour. NSW Maritime is the marine-safety regulator, and their Recreational Boating division has 54 BSO's operating across the state.



Navigation Light Compliance

The relevant section of the Marine Safety Act 1998 appears below. The "on the spot" fine for non-compliance with the requirements of the Coll Regs is \$250 and the maximum court imposed penalty is 50 penalty units and currently a penalty unit is \$110 ie \$5,500.

Marine Safety Act 1998 No 121

Current version for 6 July 2009 to date (accessed 17 September 2009 at 12:19)

[Part 2](#) Section 10

10 Regulations for prevention of collisions at sea or in other navigable waters

- (1) The regulations may make provision for or with respect to the prevention of collisions at sea or in other navigable waters (including the use on vessels of lights, shapes and signals).
- (2) The regulations under this section may adopt, with or without modification, international regulations for preventing collisions at sea.
- (3) The master or any other person concerned in the operation of a vessel who contravenes the regulations under this section, or who causes those regulations to be contravened, is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

The relevant section of the Coll Regs appears below. The Coll Regs have been "adopted" into the Marine Safety Act 1998.

Part C Lights and Shapes

20 Application

- (a) Rules in this Part shall be complied with in all weathers.
- (b) 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 look-out.
- (c) 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) The Rules concerning shapes shall be complied with by day.

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

21 Definitions

(a) **Masthead light** means a white light placed over the fore and aft centreline 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.

(b) **Sidelights** means 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. In a vessel of less than 20 metres in length the sidelights may be combined in one lantern carried on the fore and aft centreline 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.

22 Visibility of Lights

The lights prescribed in these Rules shall have an intensity as specified in Section 8 of Annex I to these Regulations so as to be visible at the following minimum ranges:

- (a) In vessels of 50 metres or more in length:
 - (i) a masthead light, 6 miles;
 - (ii) a sidelight, 3 miles;
 - (iii) a sternlight, 3 miles;
 - (iv) a towing light, 3 miles,
 - (v) a white, red, green or yellow all-round light, 3 miles.

- (b) In vessels of 12 metres or more in length but less than 50 metres in length:
 - (i) a masthead light, 5 miles, except that where the length of the vessel is less than 20 metres, 3 miles;
 - (ii) a sidelight, 2 miles;
 - (iii) a sternlight, 2 miles;
 - (iv) a towing light, 2 miles;
 - (v) a white, red, green or yellow all-round light, 2 miles.

- (c) In vessels of less than 12 metres in length:
 - (i) a masthead light, 2 miles;
 - (ii) a sidelight, 1 mile;

- (iii) a sternlight, 2 miles;
- (iv) a towing light, 2 miles;
- (v) a white, red, green or yellow all-round light, 2 miles.

(d) In inconspicuous, partly submerged vessels or objects being towed:

- (i) a white all-round light, 3 miles.

23 Power-driven Vessels Underway

(a) A power-driven vessel underway shall exhibit:

- (i) a masthead light forward;
- (ii) a second masthead light abaft of and higher than the forward one, except that a vessel of less than 50 metres in length shall not be obliged to exhibit such light and may do so;
- (iii) sidelights;
- (iv) a sternlight.

(b) 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.

(c) A WIG craft only when taking off, landing and in flight near the surface shall, in addition to the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule, exhibit a high intensity all-round flashing red light.

(d)

- (i) A power-driven vessel of less than 12 metres in length may in lieu of the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule exhibit an all-round white light, and sidelights;
- (ii) a power-driven vessel of less than 7 metres in length whose maximum speed does not exceed 7 knots may in lieu of the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule exhibit an all-round white light and shall, if practicable, also exhibit sidelights;
- (iii) the masthead light of all-round white light on a power-driven vessel of less than 12 metres in length may be displaced from the fore and aft centreline of the vessel if centreline fitting is not practicable, provided that the sidelights are combined in one lantern which shall be carried on the fore and aft centreline of the vessel or located as nearly as practicable in the same fore and aft line as the masthead light or the all-round white light.