

# **INTERPRETATIONS OF THE COLREG**

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# COL Interpretation to COLREG 1972 Annex 1, REG Section 9 (b)

## 1

(Jan 2006) **Regulation**

Annex 1, Section 9(b) reads:

(i) All round lights shall be so located as not to be obscured by masts, topmasts or superstructures within angular sectors of more than 6°, except anchor lights prescribed in Rule 30, which need not to be placed at an impractical height above the hull.

(ii) If it is impractical to comply with paragraph (b)(i) of this section by exhibiting only one all-round light, two all-round lights shall be used suitably positioned or screened so that they appear, as far as practicable, as one light at the distance of one mile.

### Interpretation

In order to comply with the 1 mile requirement in 9(b)(ii), the all-round lights shall be screened less than 180 degrees. However, as a light source is not a point but has a certain extension, it may be accepted that all-round lights are screened up to 180 degrees. Screenings details are to be considered by Societies when carrying out the drawing approval process.

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#### Note:

This UI is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Members and Associates from 1 July 2006.





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# COL REG 3

## Interpretation to COLREG 1972 Annex 1, Section 3 (b)

### 3

(Jan 2006)

#### Regulation

Annex 1, Section 3(b) reads: On power-driven vessels of 20 m 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.

#### Interpretation

The term "near the side" is interpreted as being a distance of not more than 10% of the breadth of the vessel inboard from the side, up to a maximum of 2 meters. Where the application of above requirement is impractical (e.g. small ships with superstructure of reduced width) exemption may be given on the basis of the Flag Authority acceptance.

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#### Note:

This UI is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Members and Associates from 1 July 2006.



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# COL REG 4 Interpretation to COLREG 1972 Rule 27(b)(i)

## Regulation

(Jan 2006) Rule 27(b)(i) reads:

(Corr.1

July 2007) A vessel restricted in her ability to manoeuvre, except a vessel engaged in mine clearance operations, shall exhibit:

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

### Interpretation

“Not under command” (NUC) all-round red lights (Rule 27(a)(i)) may be used as part of the “Restricted Ability to Manoeuvre” (RAM) lights provided the vertical and horizontal distances required by COLREG 1972 are complied with and the electrical system is arranged so that the all-round white light (RAM) may be switched on independently from the two all-round red lights (NUC).

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#### Note

This UI is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Members and Associates from 1 July 2006.

