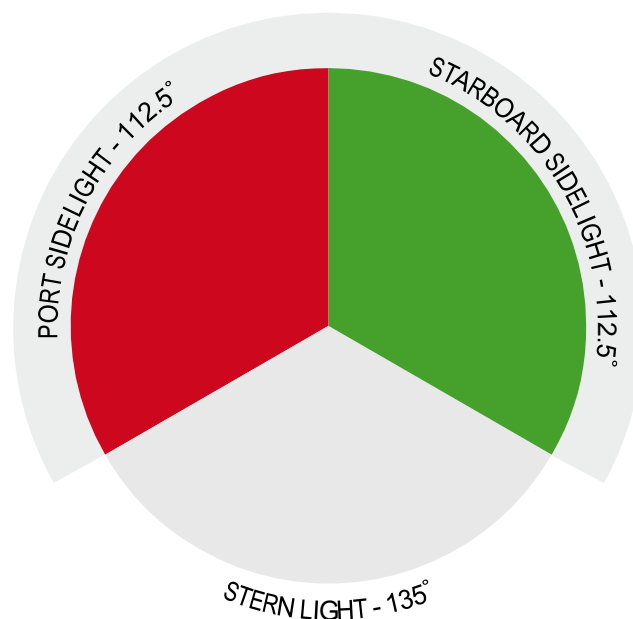


Navigation Lights



Explanation of lights

Special care and attention are needed when navigating vessels at night.

To maximise your safety and that of others, you must keep a proper lookout by sight, hearing and all other available means, travel at a safe speed and use the appropriate lights to ensure that other vessel operators can see you.

Navigation lights provide a visual reference for other vessel operators of the type, size and direction of travel of vessels – important information if they are to move safely on the State's waterways.

A safe speed is one at which the vessel can be stopped in time to avoid any sudden danger. Between sunset and sunrise or in restricted visibility always travel at reduced speed to increase your safety margin.

Navigation lights are required whenever vessels are underway or at anchor between sunset and sunrise, and also during times of restricted visibility. Any vessel that is not moored or aground is underway.

It is an offence to operate a vessel without the correct navigation lights during the hours of darkness or in conditions of restricted visibility. Substantial penalties apply for breaches of the regulations.

This guide explains the correct use and purpose of navigation lights so that you can properly illuminate your vessel and interpret the lights you see on other vessels.

Range over which lights must be visible

VESSELS 12 METRES TO 20 METRES

- Masthead light - 3 miles
- Sidelight and stern light - 2 miles
- All-round lights - 2 miles

VESSELS UNDER 12 METRES

- Masthead light - 2 miles
- Sidelights - 1 mile
- Stern light - 2 miles
- All-round lights - 2 miles

Placement of lights

Navigation lights must be positioned on board vessels so that deck lights, fittings or superstructure do not interfere with the angle through which the lights are designed to be visible.

Many other lighting configurations are used on vessels to identify the type of activity in which they are engaged, eg dredging, fishing and pilotage.

As a rule of thumb, small boat operators are advised to keep well clear of vessels displaying additional lights.

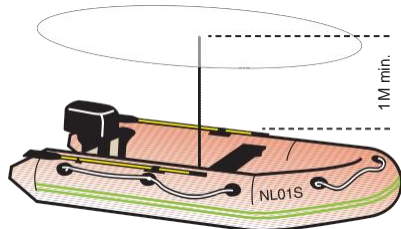
Note: Where navigation lights are fitted to a vessel – the lights must be fitted (and exhibited) in accordance with the Prevention of Collisions at Sea Regulations. Where navigation lights are fitted to a vessel, the requirement to fit the navigation lights correctly applies irrespective of when the vessel is to be operated – this includes daylight hours.

Navigation Lights

Power driven vessels underway

VESSELS UNDER 7 METRES AND LESS THAN 7 KNOTS

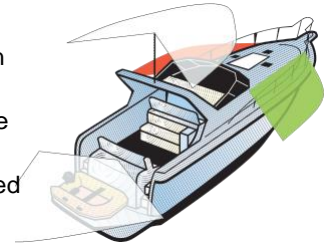
Power driven vessels less than 7 metres in length with a maximum speed of less than 7 knots shall exhibit a white all round (360 degree) light and if possible separate or combined sidelights.



VESSELS 12 METRES TO 20 METRES

Power driven vessels more than 12 metres in length but less than 20 metres in length shall exhibit:

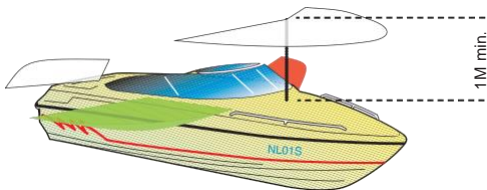
- A white masthead light, separate sidelights and a stern light; or
- A white masthead light, combined sidelights and a stern light.



VESSELS UNDER 12 METRES

Power driven vessels less than 12 metres in length shall exhibit:

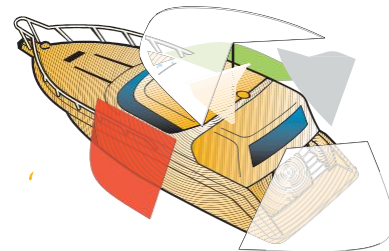
- A white all round masthead light and separate or combined sidelights; or
- A white masthead light, a white stern light and separate or combined sidelights.



VESSELS 20 METRES TO 50 METRES

Power driven vessels more than 20 metres in length but less than 50 metres in length shall exhibit:

- A white masthead light, separate sidelights and a stern light.



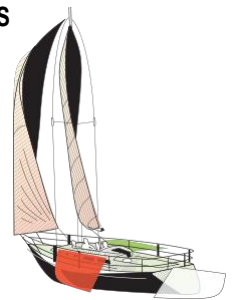
Sailboats and vessels under oars

A sailing vessel whilst underway under power of the motor or using the motor together with the sails (motor sailing), is a *power driven vessel* within the meaning of the rules and must exhibit the navigation lights that apply to power driven vessels.



SAILING VESSELS MORE THAN 20 METRES

Sailing vessels more than 20 metres in length shall exhibit sidelights and a stern light.



VESSELS UNDER 7 METRES

Sailing vessels less than 7 metres in length or vessels being rowed shall exhibit:

- The lights required for sailing vessels over 7 metres in length; or
- A white light exhibited by torch or lantern in sufficient time to prevent a collision.



SAILING VESSELS 7 METRES TO 20 METRES

Sailing vessels more than 7 metres in length and less than 20 metres in length shall exhibit:

- A combined stern light and sidelights at or near the top of the mast (tricolour); or
- Separate sidelights and a stern light; or
- Sidelights, stern light and in addition two all-round lights in vertical alignment at or near the top of the mast, the upper red and the lower green (not to be exhibited together with combined tricolour lantern).



Power/sailing vessels at anchor

Vessels less than 50 metres in length at anchor shall exhibit an all-round white light where it can best be seen. To anchor at night without exhibiting an anchor light where other vessels may be expected to navigate is not only illegal it is highly dangerous.

