
4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

MSC.1/Circ.1427
28 May 2012

UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF COLREG 1972, AS AMENDED

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninetieth session (16 to 25 May 2012), with a view to providing more specific guidance for certain Rules contained in IMO instruments which are open to different interpretations, approved the unified interpretations of COLREG 1972, as amended, relating to Annex I – Positioning and technical details of lights and shapes, prepared by the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation, as set out in the annex.

2 Member Governments are invited to use the annexed unified interpretations as guidance when applying the relevant provisions of COLREG 1972 to vessels constructed on or after 1 January 2013 and to bring the attached unified interpretations to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF COLREG 1972, AS AMENDED

Annex I, section 9(a)(i) – Horizontal sectors

COLREG Annex I, section 9(a)(i) would require the full intensity of the side lights to be maintained in the forward direction of 1° outside the prescribed sector with the practical cut-off between 1° and 3°. This is needed to enable other vessels to determine a "head-on-situation" as per COLREG rule 14.

Annex I, section 10(a)(i) – Vertical sectors

The vertical sectors of electric lights, as fitted, with the exception of lights on sailing vessels, should ensure that at least the required intensity is maintained at all angles from 5° above to 5° below the horizontal when measured at even keel.
