

A QUICK GUIDE TO THE RULES OF THE ROAD

Power vessels:

If approaching bows on, each vessel must alter course to starboard, to pass port to port. When two vessels are crossing, the one which has the other on her starboard side must keep clear, preferably by passing astern of each other (See diagrams below).

Sailing vessels:

For vessels on opposite tacks, the one on a port tack (main boom to starboard) must keep clear. If both are on the same tack, the windward one must keep clear.

General:

An overtaking vessel must keep clear. Usually a vessel under power must keep clear of a sailing vessel, but in narrow channels and harbours, some categories of power vessels (restricted manoeuvrability or deep draught, as indicated by lights/shapes) this does not apply. Always keep to the starboard side of channels. Cross traffic schemes at right angles. A vessel which has right of way shall keep her course and speed. Keep clear of fishing boats and trawling.

Risk of collision:

If the bearing of an approaching ship does not alter appreciably, there is a risk of collision. If you have to keep clear, make a substantial alteration to your course in ample time, so that your intentions are clear.

In poor visibility:

Slow down (or stop if necessary). Sound the correct fog signal. Switch on navigation lights.

BASIC RULES OF THE ROAD FOR POWERED VESSELS APPROACHING ONE ANOTHER

Meeting end on

Crossing

Overtaking

