

IALA BUOYAGE SYSTEM A

LATERAL MARKS

Used generally to mark the sides of well defined navigable channels

PORT HAND MARKS

Light: Colour — red
Rhythm — any



Direction of Buoyage



STARBOARD HAND MARKS

Light: Colour — Green
Rhythm — any

OTHER MARKS

ISOLATED DANGER MARKS
Use: to mark a small isolated danger with navigable water all around
Light: Colour — white
Rhythm — group flashing (2)



SAFE WATER MARKS

Use: Mid-channel or landfall
Light: Colour — white
Rhythm — isophase, occulting or 1 long flash every 10 secs.

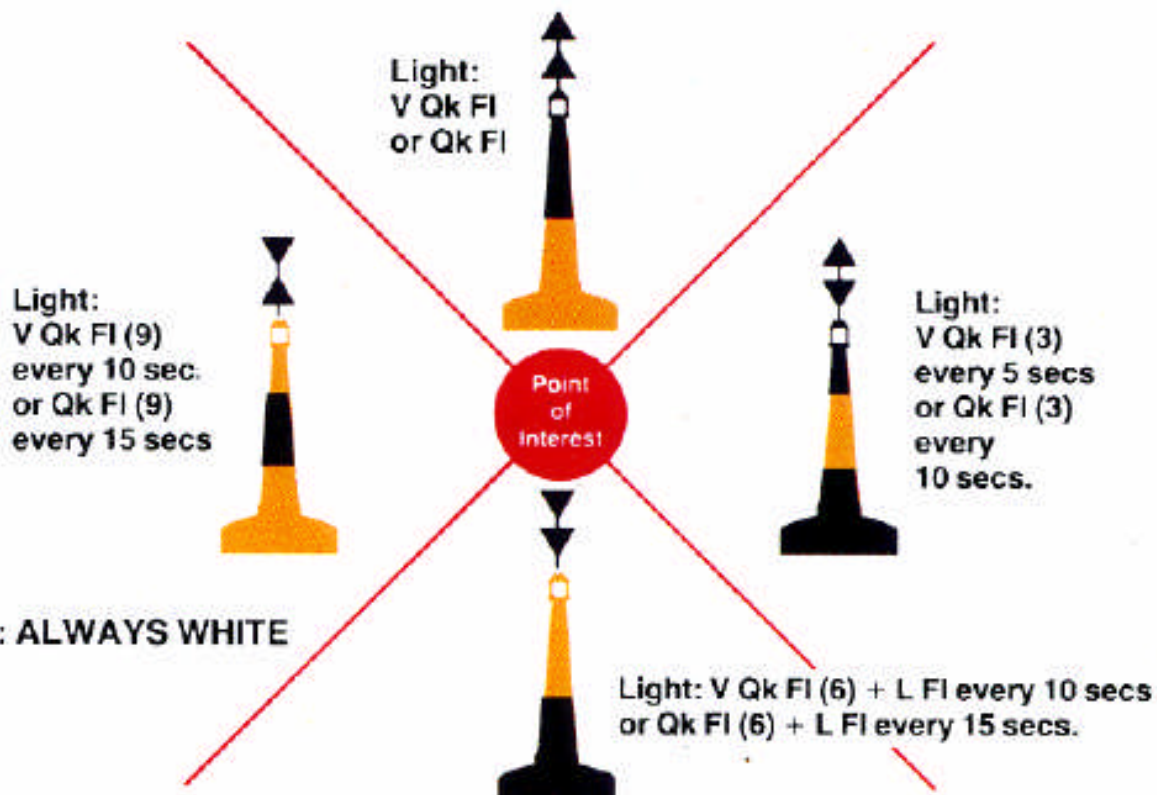


SPECIAL MARKS

Any shape permissible
Use: of no navigational significance
Light: Colour — yellow
Rhythm — different from any white lights used on buoys

CARDINAL MARKS

Used to indicate the direction from the mark in which the best navigable water lies, or to draw attention to a bend, junction or fork in a channel, or to mark the end of a shoal.





IALA Buoyage

POINTS TO REMEMBER

LATERAL MARKS

- Port hand Buoys: Red Can, Red light, any rhythm
- Starboard hand Buoys: Green Conical, Green light, any rhythm.

CARDINAL MARKS are coloured in yellow and black horizontal bands in various combinations, always with black double cone topmarks, as follows:-

- North Cardinal - Points up - Black band up
- South Cardinal - Points down - Black band down
- West Cardinal - Points to middle - Black in the middle
- East Cardinal - Points up and down - Black up and down.

The disposition of topmarks for North and South is obvious. For West, "W for Wineglass" (or "Woman") may be helpful.

Cardinal lights are always white - very quick or quick flashing. To remember their rhythms, think of the Clock face:-

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Continuous flashing | = North (12 o'clock) |
| 3 flashes | = East (3 o'clock) |
| 6 flashes (+ long flash) | = South (6 o'clock) |
| 9 flashes | = West (9 o'clock) |

ISOLATED DANGER MARKS belong to the Cardinal family and have a double topmark (in this case 2 spheres) and a flashing white light character.

These marks are always coloured red and black with a light rhythm of group flashing (2).

SAFE WATER MARKS belong to the Lateral family. If a topmark is carried it is a single red sphere. Lights are white with a slow rhythm exhibiting either one long flash every 10 seconds, Isophase or Occulting.

SPECIAL MARKS are not for navigation - they are always yellow with, if lighted, a yellow light. A yellow "X" topmark is optional. They may also be lettered to indicate their purpose.