

Radio Communications

Bridge-to-Bridge Radio Regulations require the captain or person in charge, or the person designated to steer the vessel, to maintain a listening watch on the designated radio frequency.

- Keep your VHF radio on channel 16 and 13 and listen carefully.
- Know the sound signals, especially the danger signal.

Proper Lookout



(By seeing and hearing, by radio, and by radar)

Every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper look-out by **sight and hearing** and by all available means necessary to evaluate the risk of collision.

- Keep eyes and ears open to observe or hear something that may endanger your vessel.
- Look side to side for other vessels, oil platforms and objects in the water.
- Look behind you to see if any traffic is overtaking you.
- When in reduced visibility (night time and fog) assign crewmembers as lookouts.

Important: A proper lookout can avoid collision.



Ship-To-Ship Communications

- **“Short blast”** - 1 second.
- **“Prolonged blast”** – 4 to 6 seconds.



Inland signals are signals of a vessel's intentions

- 1 short blast** - I intend to change course to starboard.
- 2 short blasts** - I intend to change course to port.
- 3 short blasts** - I am operating astern propulsion (backing up).

Danger Signal

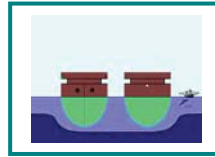
- 5 or more short blasts** – I do not understand your intent.
- If you do not agree or understand what the other vessel intends to do you should sound the danger signal.
- Each vessel should slow or stop until the signals for safe passing are sounded, understood and agreed to.
- You must communicate by VHF Radio

International signals (outside waters) are given when the maneuver is being executed.



Navigation Situations

Avoid areas where there is commercial vessel traffic such as Shipping Lanes or Traffic Separation Zones.



Large ships and barges have special problems in maneuvering and **cannot and will not** get out of your way.



If you operate around commercial vessels:

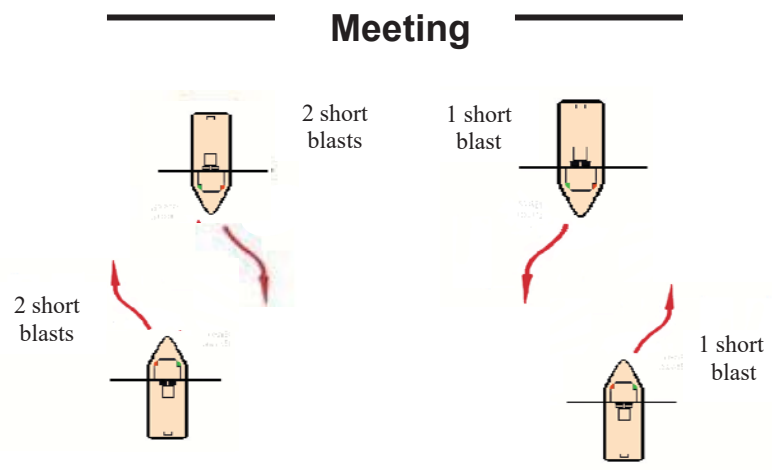
- Stay Alert- watch for traffic.
- Become familiar with the area and use current navigation charts.
- Avoid ship channels.
- Cross ship channels at right angles and as quickly as possible.
- Be seen, especially at night, display proper navigation lights.
- Have crewmembers wear Life Jackets.



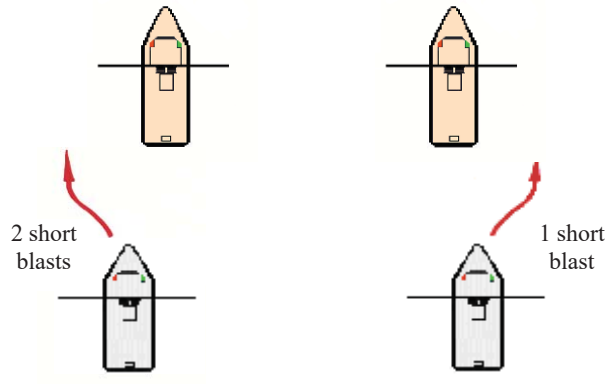
Risk of Collision

If you have any doubt that you might collide you should act as if you will collide and take appropriate action.

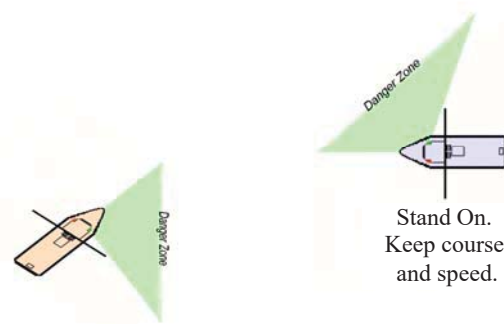
- Risk of collision shall exist when the compass bearing of an approaching vessel does not appear to change.
- To avoid a collision allow more time to assess the situation by slowing down or stop or reverse propulsion.
- When taking action do so early and make the maneuver large enough to be recognized by the other vessel.
- Small alterations of course and/or speed should be avoided.



Overtaking



Crossing



Give Way.
Should change
Course to pass astern

Stand On.
Keep course
and speed.



MAYDAY

The highest urgency radio call. Used when a vessel is in immediate danger or danger to Life and Limb.

Call on Channel 16 or Single Side Band- 2182HMz

- 1. MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY**
- 2. Give your vessel name 3 times.**
- 3. Location: Latitude or geographic area.**
- 4. Nature of distress (fire, flooding, man overboard, medical emergency).**
- 5. Number persons on board.**
- 6. Vessel description (length, fishing vessel, color, etc.).**
- 7. Listen for a response (repeat until acknowledged) or until you are forced to abandon ship.**

