

The Rule is followed by an explanation

Rule 27 Vessels not under command or restricted in their ability to manoeuvre.

(a) A vessel not under command shall exhibit:

- (i) two all-round red lights in a vertical line where they can best be seen;
- (ii) two balls or similar shapes in a vertical line where they can best be seen;
- (iii) when making way through the water, in addition to the lights prescribed in this paragraph, sidelights and a sternlight.

(b) A vessel restricted in her ability to manoeuvre, except a vessel engaged in mineclearance operations, shall exhibit:

- (i) three all-round lights in a vertical line where they can best be seen. The highest and lowest of these lights shall be red and the middle light shall be white;
- (ii) three shapes in a vertical line where they can best be seen. The highest and lowest of these shapes shall be balls and the middle one a diamond;
- (iii) when making way through the water, a masthead light or lights, sidelights and a sternlight, in addition to the lights prescribed in sub-paragraph (i);
- (iv) When at anchor, in addition to the lights or shapes prescribed in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii), the light, lights or shape prescribed in Rule 30.

(c) A power-driven vessel engaged in a towing operation such as severely restricts the towing vessel and her tow in their ability to deviate from their course shall, in addition to the lights and shapes prescribed in Rule 24 (a), exhibit the lights or shapes prescribed in sub-paragraphs (b) (i) and (ii) of this Rule.

(d) A vessel engaged in dredging or underwater operations, when restricted in her ability to manoeuvre, shall exhibit the lights and shapes prescribed in sub-paragraph(b) (i), (ii) and (iii) of this Rule and shall in addition, when an obstruction exists, exhibit;

- (i) two all-round red lights or two balls in a vertical line to indicate the side on which the obstruction exists;
- (ii) two all-round green lights or two diamonds in a vertical line to indicate the side on which side a vessel may pass;
- (iii) when at anchor the lights or shapes prescribed in this paragraph instead of the lights or shape prescribed in Rule 30.

(e) Whenever the size of a vessel engaged in diving operations makes it impracticable to exhibit all the lights and shapes prescribed in the paragraph (d) of this Rule, the following shall be exhibited;

(i) three all-round lights in a vertical line where they can best be seen. The highest and lowest of these lights shall be red and the middle light shall be white;

(ii) a rigid replica of the International Code Flag "A" not less than 1 metre in height. Measures shall be taken to ensure its all-round visibility.

(f) A vessel engaged in mine clearance operations shall in addition to the lights prescribed for a power-driven vessel in Rule 23 or to the lights or shape prescribed for a vessel at anchor in Rule 30 as appropriate, exhibit three all-round green lights or three balls. One of these lights or shapes shall be exhibited near the foremast head and one at each end of the fore yard. These lights or shapes indicate that it is dangerous for another vessel to approach within 1000 metres of the mine clearance vessel.

(g) Vessels of less than 12 metres in length, except those engaged in diving operations shall not be required to exhibit the lights and shapes prescribed in this Rule.

(h) The signals prescribed in this Rule are not signals of vessels in distress and requiring assistance. Such signals are contained in Annex iv to these Regulations.

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## Rule 27 Vessels not under command or restricted in their ability to manoeuvre Explained

The term "vessel not under command" means a vessel which through some **exceptional circumstance is unable to manoeuvre as required by these Rules and is therefore unable to keep out of the way of another vessel.**

Examples of a vessel not under command would be a vessel that has failure of its propulsion or failure of its means of steering.

### Restricted in Ability to Manoeuvre

The term "vessel restricted in her ability to manoeuvre" means a vessel which from the nature of her work is restricted in her ability to manoeuvre as required by these rules and is therefore unable to keep out of the way of another vessel.

The term "vessels restricted in their ability to manoeuvre" shall include but not be limited to:

- (i) a vessel engaged in laying, servicing or picking up a navigation mark, submarine cable or pipeline;
- (ii) a vessel engaged in dredging, surveying or underwater operations;
- (iii) a vessel engaged in replenishment or transferring persons, provisions or cargo while underway;
- (iv) a vessel engaged in launching or recovery of aircraft;
- (v) a vessel engaged in mine clearance operations;
- (vi) a vessel engaged in a towing operation such as severely restricts the towing vessel and her tow in their ability to deviate from their course.

When a vessel is not under command or RAM it can be **underway and making way** or **stopped, not making way**.

## Vessel not Under Command (NUC)



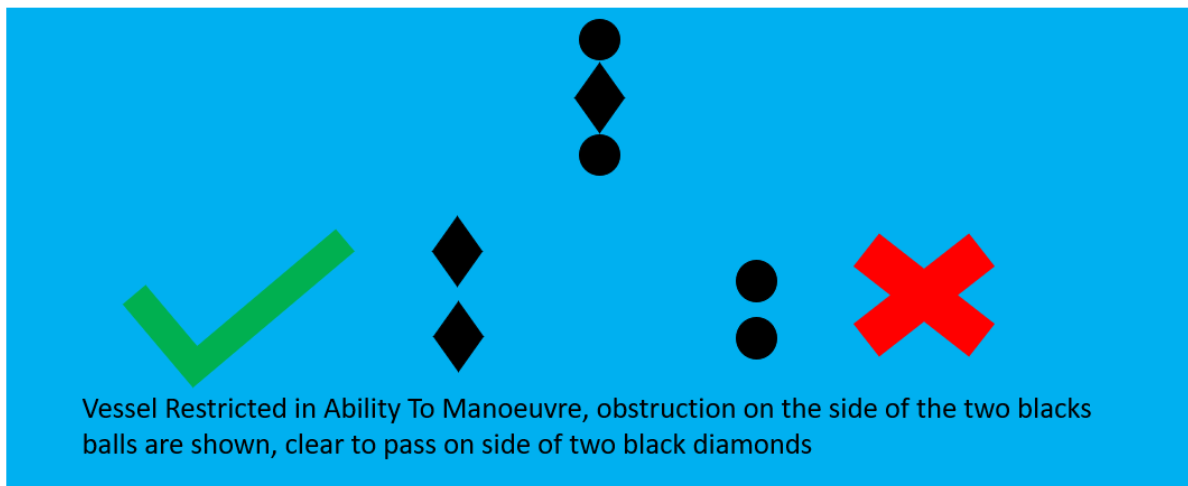
Day signal two black balls in a vertical line vessel could be underway and making way or stopped and not making way



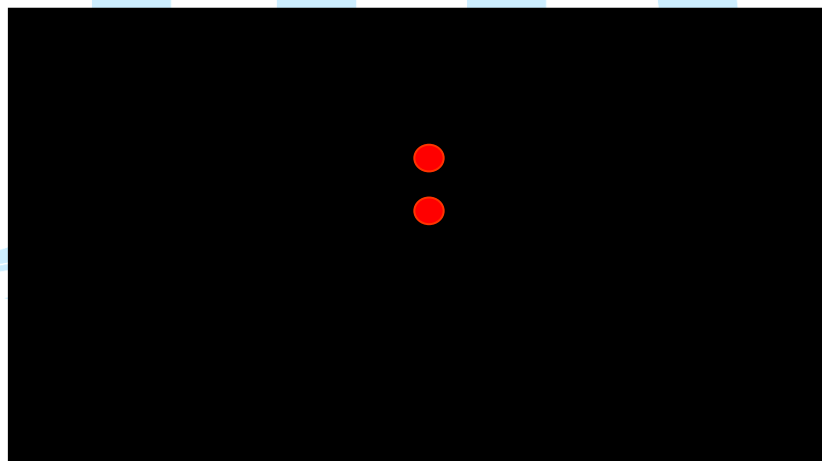
Day signal black ball, diamond, ball in a vertical line vessel could be underway and making way or stopped and not making way



# RAM Day Shapes

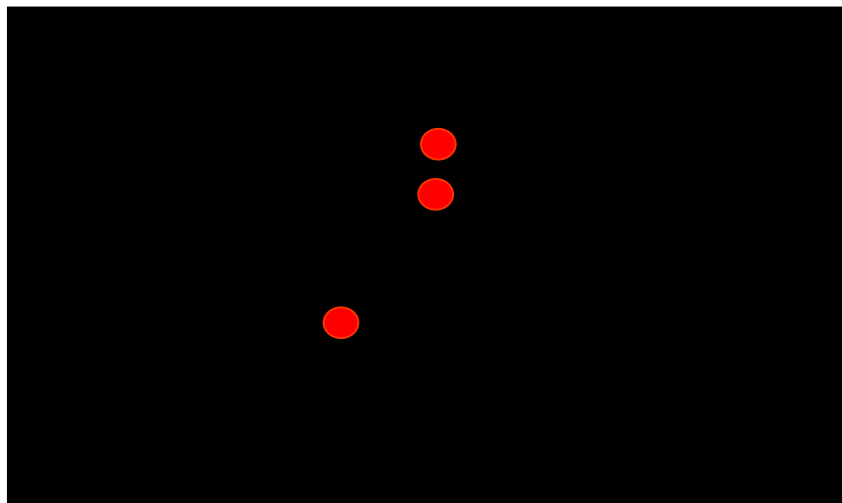


a)



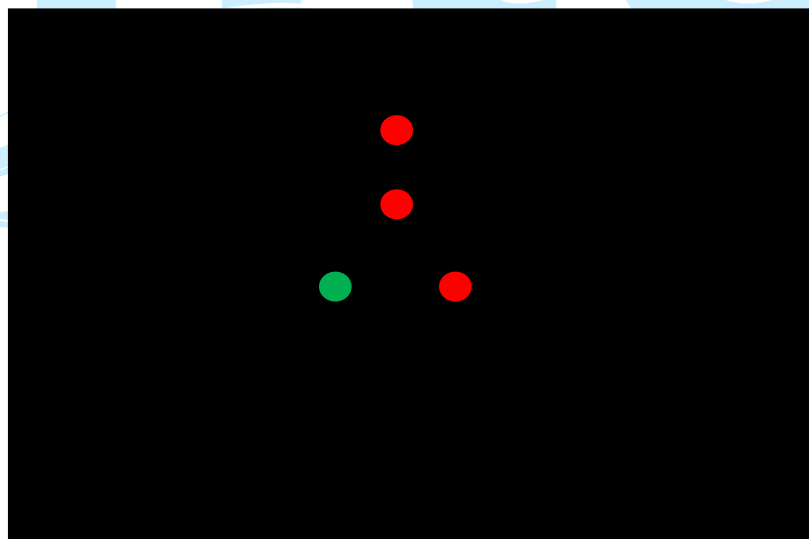
A vessel not under command, stopped and not making way.

b)



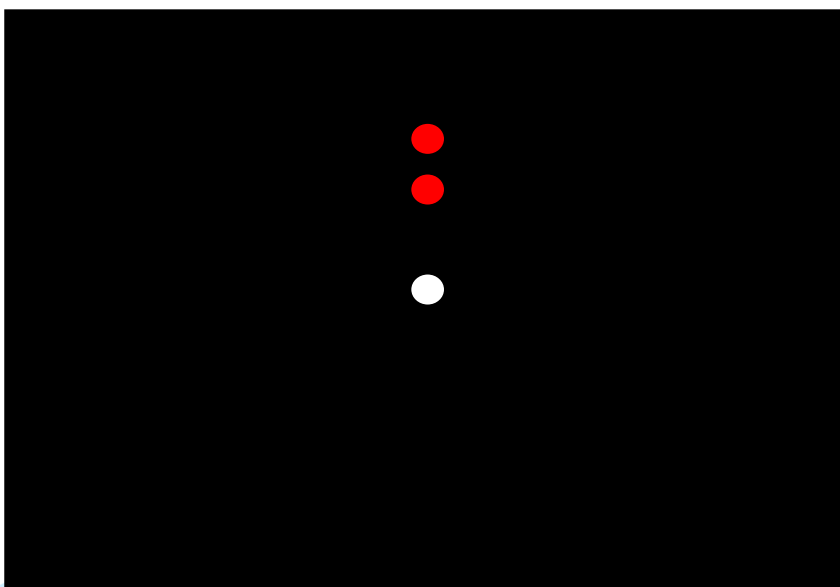
A vessel not under command underway and making way seen from the port side, no indication of length.

c)



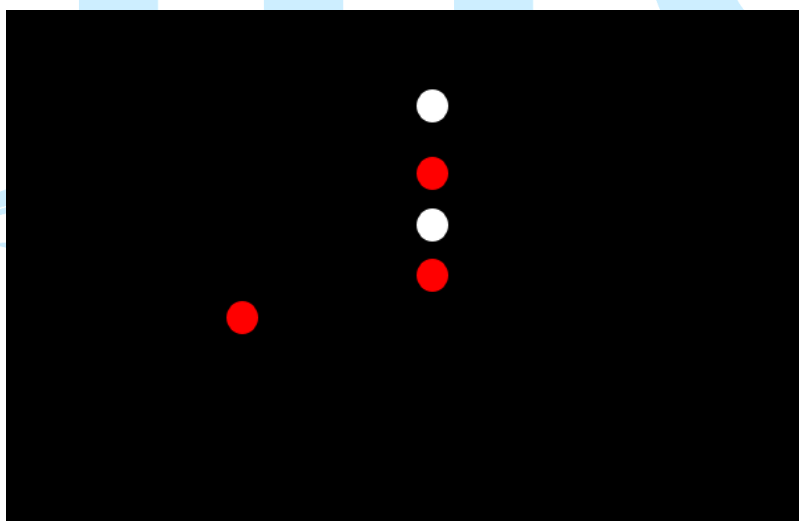
A vessel not under command underway and making way seen from ahead, no indication of length

d)



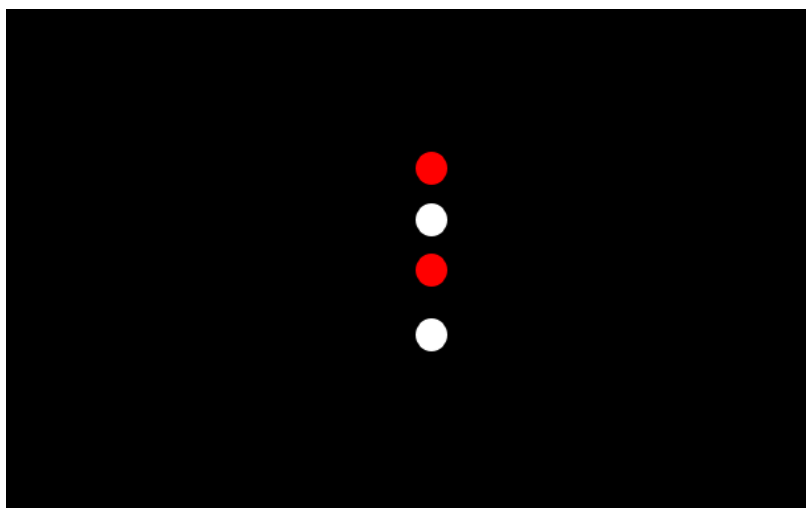
A vessel not under command underway and making way seen from astern, no indication of length

e)



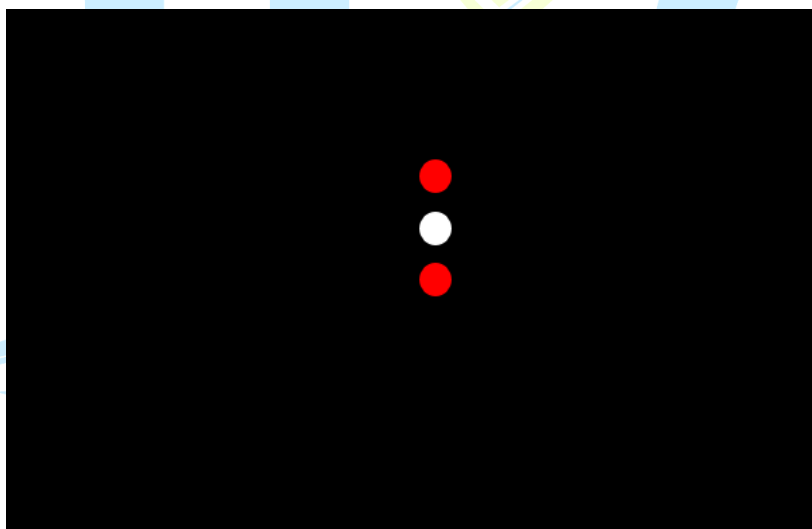
A vessel Restricted in Ability to Manoeuvre less than 50m in length, seen from the port side, making way.

f)



A vessel Restricted in Ability to Manoeuvre seen from the stern, underway and making way.

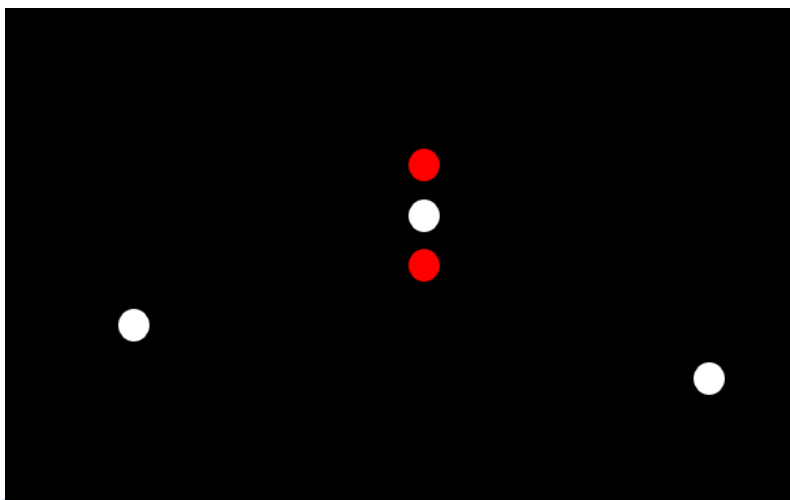
g)



A vessel Restricted in Ability to Manoeuvre (RAM) underway, not making way.

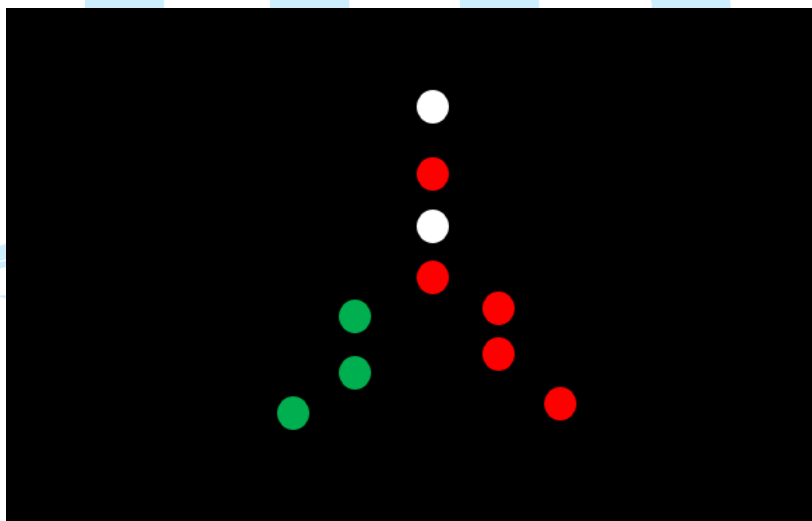


h)



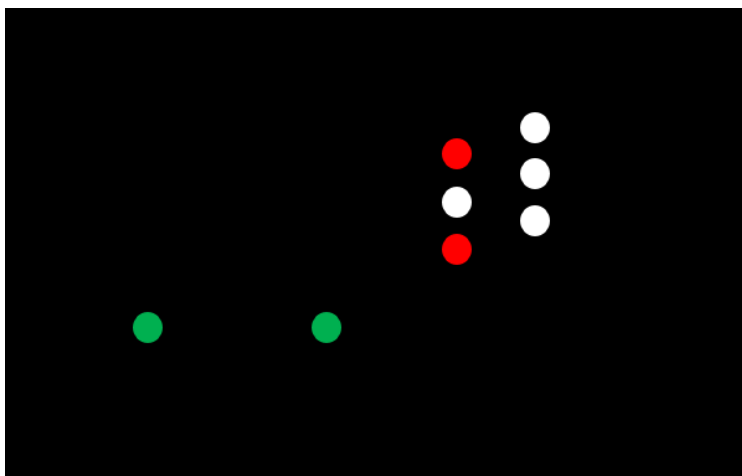
A vessel Restricted in Ability to Manoeuvre (RAM) at anchor, probable more than 50m in length but less than 100m in length.

i)



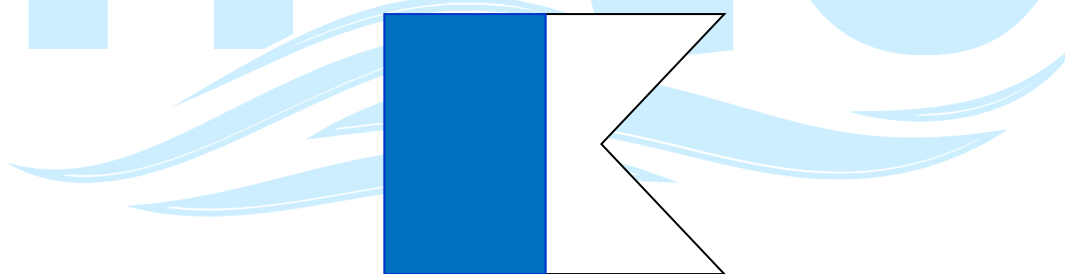
A vessel engaged in underwater operations, making way, seen from ahead. Obstruction exists to your right (two vertical red lights), clear to pass to your left (two vertical green lights), less than 50m in length.

j)



A vessel engaged in a towing operation which is restricted in her ability to deviate from her course. Towing vessel less than 50m in length, tow is more than 200m in length, seen from the starboard side, one vessel in the tow.

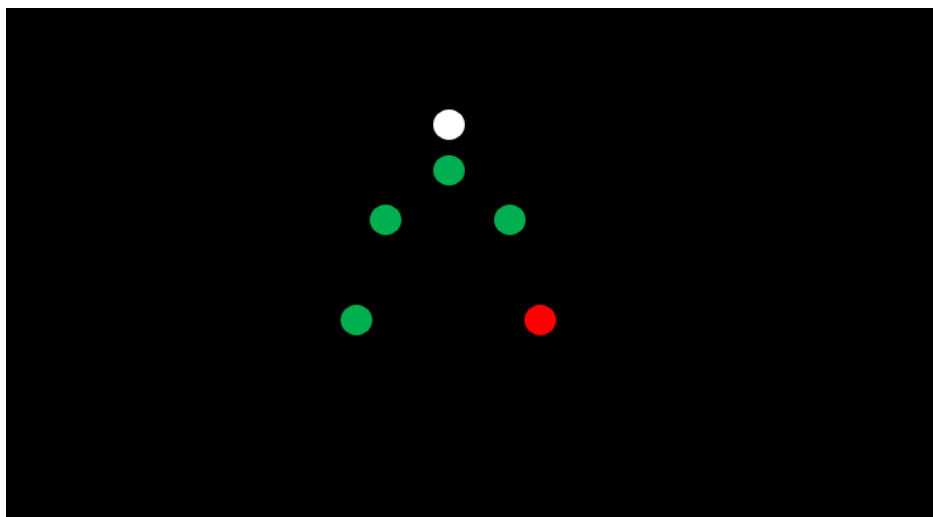
k) Diving Vessel



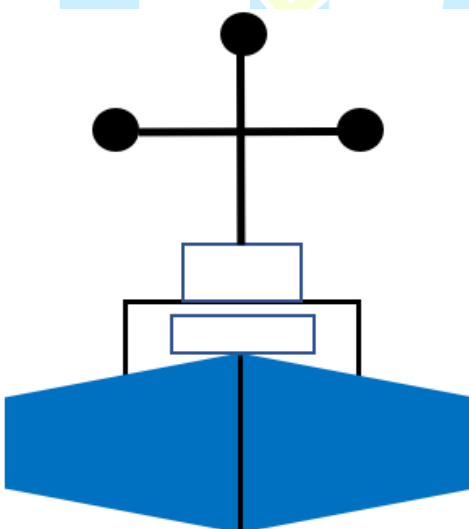
A vessel with divers down should show an international code flag 'A'. The flag should have all round visibility.

If the vessel is large enough it could also show the signals for a vessel engaged in underwater operations.

# I) Minesweeper



Minesweeper less than 50 metres in length.



These lights or shapes indicate that it is dangerous for another vessel to approach within 1000 metres of the mine clearance vessel.