



Light Recognition: What You See at Night

Read the picture, name the vessel and her aspect, then state your action. A rapid-fire drill that ties Rules 13–30 together the way the examiner actually tests them.

SEE Head-on power-driven

- Two masthead whites in a line + red and green sidelights
- Power-driven vessel 50 m+, end-on or nearly
- Both alter to starboard (Rule 14)

SEE Crossing — her red

- Masthead + red sidelight = her port side toward you
- If she's on your starboard bow, you give way (Rule 15)
- "If to starboard red appear, keep clear" — turn starboard

SEE Crossing — her green

- Masthead + green sidelight = her starboard side toward you
- If she's on your port bow, you stand on (Rule 17)
- Hold course & speed; act if she doesn't

SEE Overtaking

- A single white sternlight, no sidelights
- You are overtaking — you keep clear (Rule 13)
- Stays an overtaking until past and well clear

SEE Towing astern

- Two/three masthead whites + yellow over white at the stern
- A tug; the tow is ahead of that yellow light
- Three masthead whites = tow >200 m — wide berth

SEE Trawler / fishing

- Green over white = trawling ("trawling at night")
- Red over white = fishing, not trawling ("fishing tonight")
- Sidelights/sternlight added only when making way

SEE NUC / RAM

- Two red all-round = not under command
- Red-white-red = restricted in ability to manoeuvre
- Both outrank a power-driven vessel — keep clear

SEE Anchored / aground

- All-round white(s), no sidelights = at anchor
- Anchor light(s) + two red = aground
- 100 m+ at anchor also lights up her decks

SEE Special status

- White over red = pilot vessel on duty
- Three red = constrained by her draught
- All-round flashing yellow = hovercraft (non-displacement)

ORAL How to answer

- Call the type, then the aspect, then your action
- "Red to red" and "green to green" pass clear
- Both sidelights = end-on or overtaking — check the masthead count

● STAND-ON / INFO ● JUDGEMENT ● IDENTIFY & ACT ● KEEP CLEAR ● ORAL TIP

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