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Cardinal Marks

Region A and B

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North Cardinal Mark



North Cardinal Mark placed North of the danger. It is safe to pass north of this buoy.

Light: White, Q/VQ
Shape: Pillar or Spar

Top Mark: Two cones pointing upwards.

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East Cardinal Mark



East Cardinal Mark placed East of the danger. It is safe to pass East of this buoy.

Light: White, Group Flash 3, Q/VQ

Shape: Pillar or Spar

Top Mark: Two cones pointing away from each other.

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South Cardinal Mark



South Cardinal Mark placed South of the danger. It is safe to pass South of this buoy.

Light: White, Group Flash 6+1, Q/VQ

Shape: Pillar or Spar

Top Mark: Two cones pointing downwards.

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West Cardinal Mark



West Cardinal Mark placed West of the danger. It is safe to pass West of this buoy.

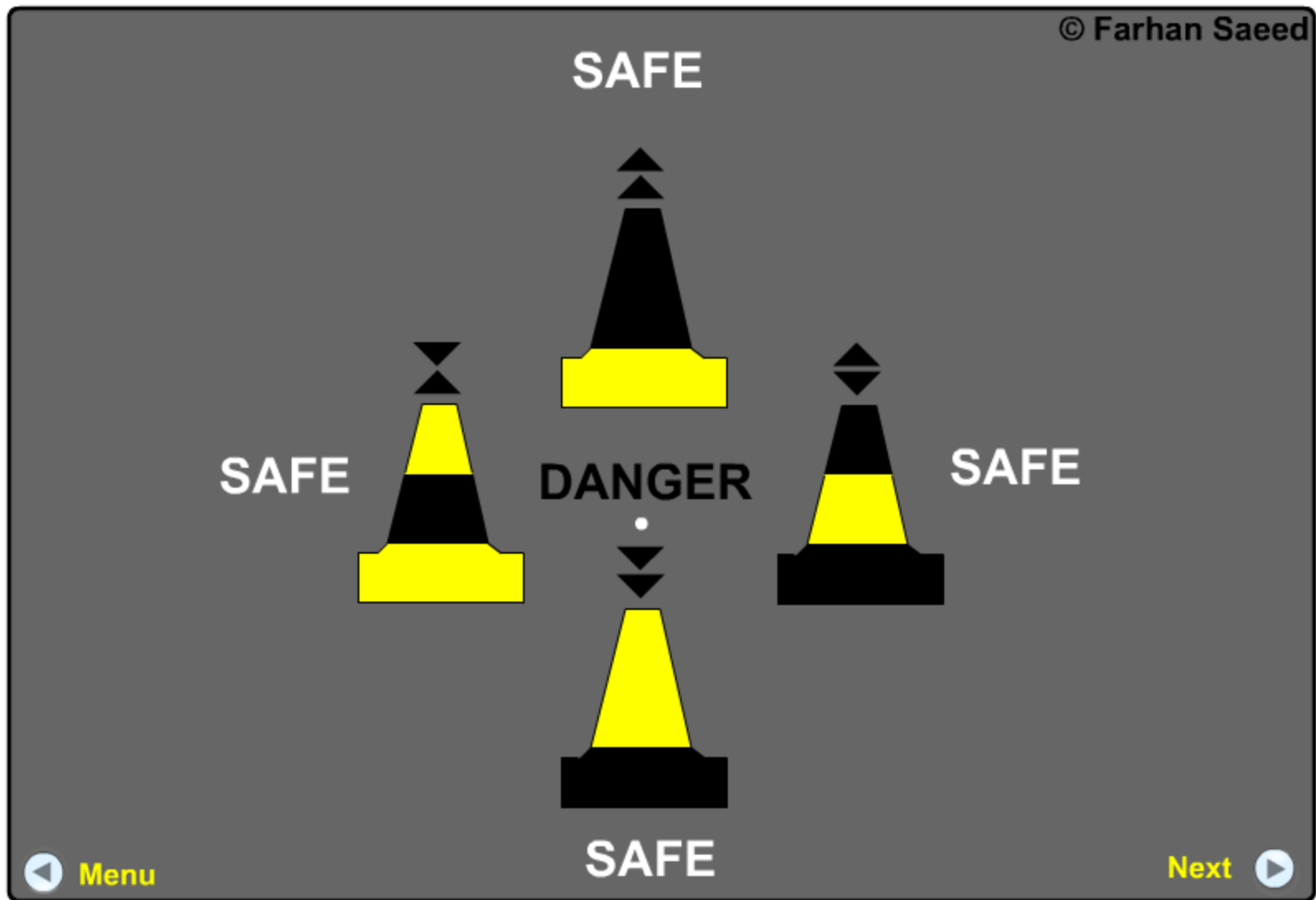
Light: White, Group Flash 9, Q/VQ

Shape: Pillar or Spar

Top Mark: Two cones pointing each other.

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Lateral Marks

Region A

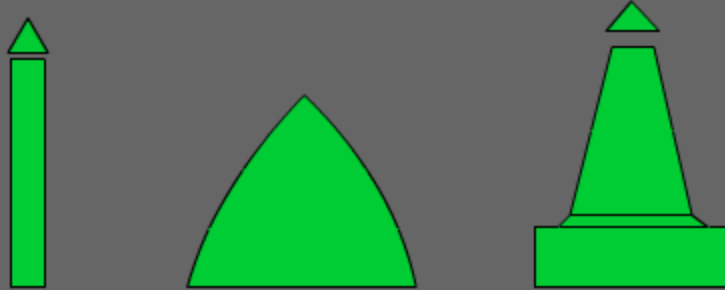
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Starboard Hand Lateral Mark

Region 'A'



Starboard hand buoy is placed on the right side of the channel. Following the general direction of the buoys keep this buoy on the starboard side.

Light: Green, any rythem other than 2+1
Shape: Cone, Pillar or Spar

Tip: Cone for starboard side - In both regions

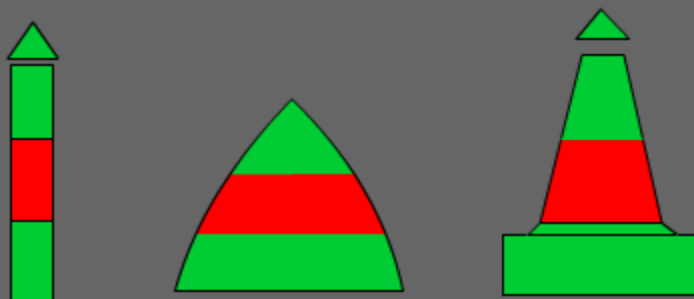
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Region 'A'

Starboard Hand Lateral Mark Preferred Channel to Port Side



Light: Green, Flashing 2+1
Shape: Cone, Pillar or Spar

When preferring a channel to port this buoy is kept on
starboard side

Tip: Cone for starboard side - In both regions

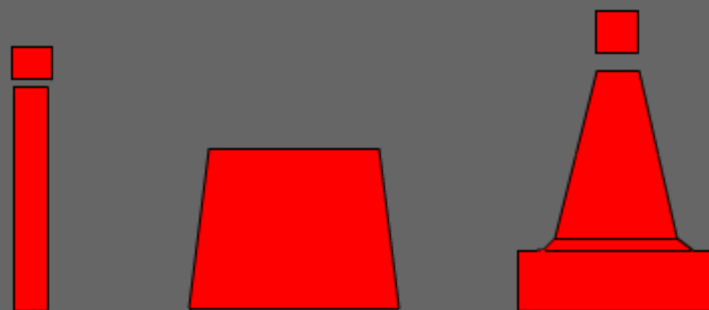
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Region 'A'

Port Hand Lateral Mark



Port hand buoy is placed on the left side of the channel. Following the general direction of the buoys keep this buoy on the port side.

Light: Red, any rhythm other than 2+1
Shape: Can, Pillar or Spar

Tip: Can for port side - In both regions

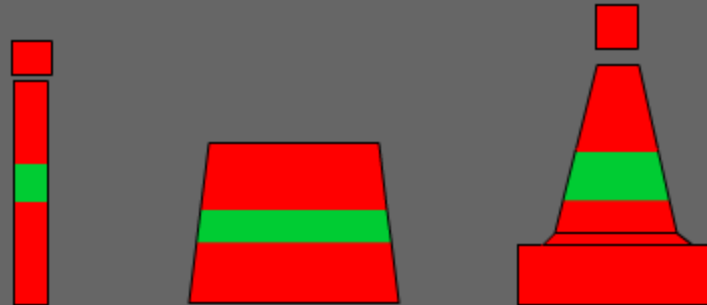
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Region 'A'

Port Hand Lateral Mark Preferred Channel to Starboard Side



Light: Red, Flashing 2+1
Shape: Can, Pillar or Spar

When preferring a channel to starboard this buoy is kept on port side

Tip: Can for port side - In both regions

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Lateral Marks

Region B

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Starboard Hand Lateral Mark

Region 'B'



Starboard hand buoy is placed on the right side of the channel. Following the general direction of the buoys keep this buoy on the starboard side.

Light: Red, any rythem other than 2+1
Shape: Cone, Pillar or Spar

Tip: Cone for starboard side - In both regions

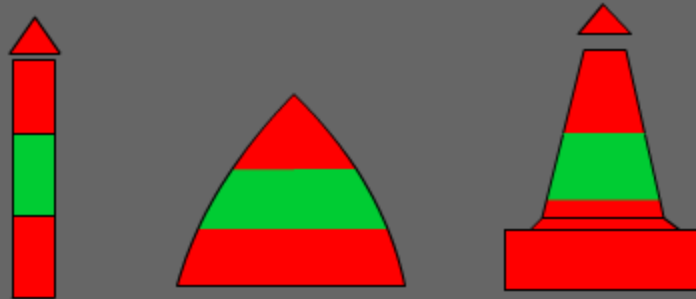
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Region 'B'

Starboard Hand Lateral Mark Preferred Channel to Port Side



Light: Red, Flashing 2+1
Shape: Cone, Pillar or Spar

When preferring a channel to port, following the general direction of the buoys, this buoy is kept on starboard side.

Tip: Cone for starboard side - In both regions

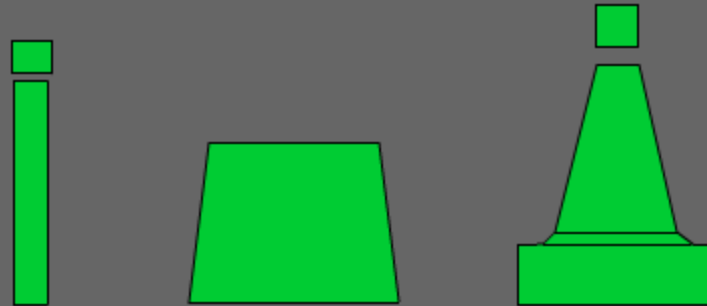
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Port Hand Lateral Mark

Region 'B'



Port hand buoy is placed on the left side of the channel.
Following the general direction of the buoys keep this buoy on the port side.

Light: Green, any rhythm other than 2+1
Shape: Can, Pillar or Spar

Tip: Can for port side - In both regions

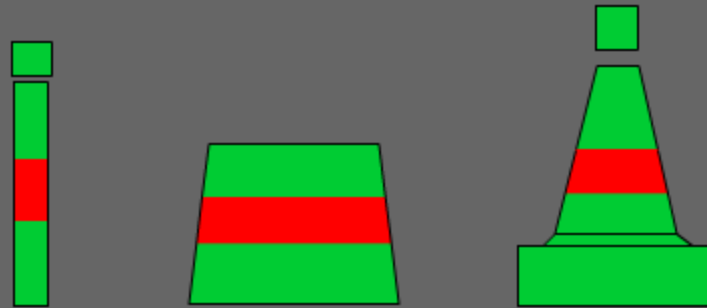
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Region 'B'

Port Hand Lateral Mark Preferred Channel to Starboard Side



Light: Green, Flashing 2+1
Shape: Can, Pillar or Spar

When preferring a channel to starboard, following the general direction of the buoys, this buoy is kept on port side.

Tip: Can for port side - In both regions

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Isolated Danger Mark Safe Water Mark Special Buoys

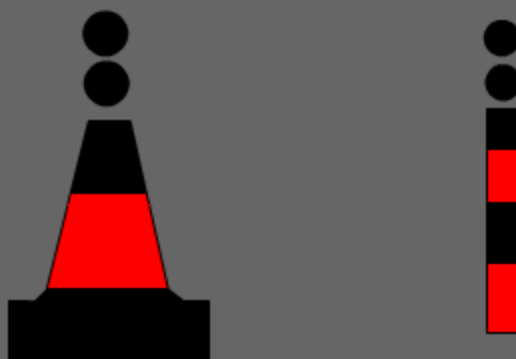
Region A & B

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Isolated Danger Mark



This buoy is placed where there is danger to surface navigation around it. Pass this buoy as far as safe and practicable.

Light: White, Group Flashing (2)

Shape: Pillar or Spar

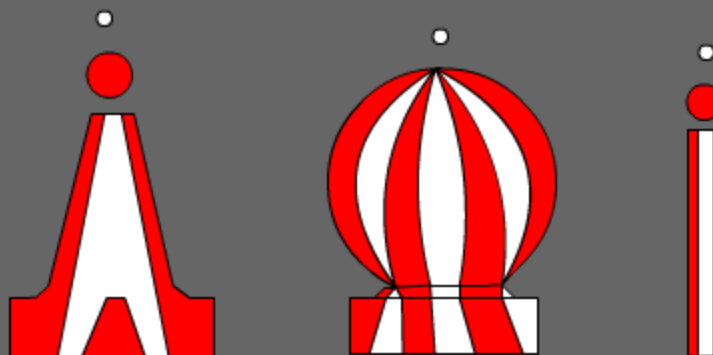
Top Mark (If fitted): Two black spheres in vertical line.

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Safe Water Mark



This buoy is placed where there is safe water around it.
Generally it is kept on the port side while entering the channel.

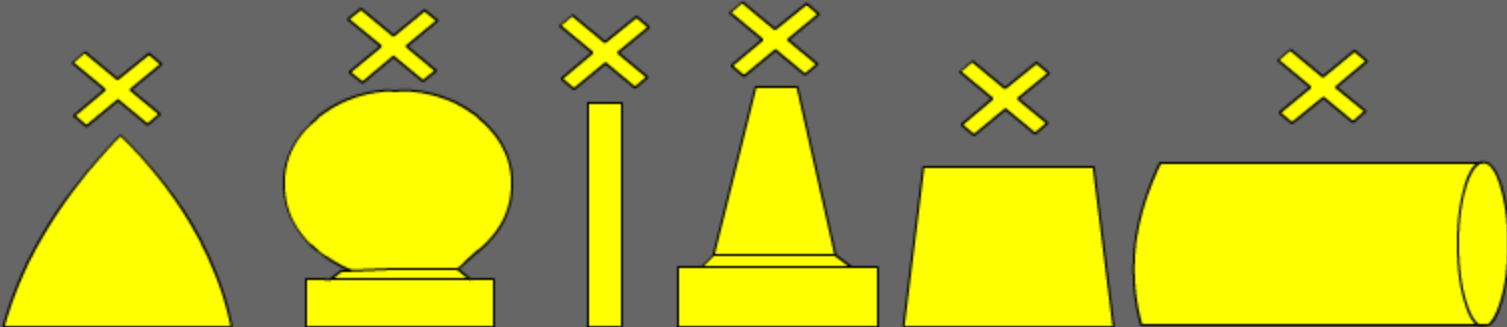
Light: White, Occulting, Isophase, Morse 'A', Long Flash 10s
Shape: Sphere, Pillar or Spar
Top Mark (if fitted): One red sphere

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Special Buoys



Used to mark the following;
Firing zone, Out falls, Cables and Pipelines, Recreation areas,
ODAS bouys, Spoil grounds, Marking channel within channel, TSS

Light: Yellow, Any rythem not used for white.
Shape: Cone, Sphere, Spar, Pillar, Can, Cylinder
Top Mark (If Fitted): Yellow, St. Andrews Cross

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- Shape of buoy is optional but not conflicting with lateral marks.

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Emergency Wreck Marking Buoy

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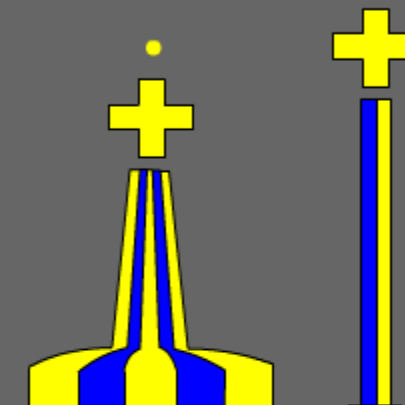
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Emergency Wreck Marking Buoy

Characteristics

The buoy has the following characteristics:

- A pillar or spar buoy, with size dependant on location.
- Coloured in equal number and dimensions of blue and yellow vertical stripes (minimum of 4 stripes and maximum of 8 stripes).
- Fitted with an alternating blue* and yellow flashing light with a nominal range of 4 nautical miles where the blue and yellow 1 second flashes are alternated with an interval of 0.5 seconds.
- If multiple buoys are deployed then the lights should be synchronised.
- Consideration should be given to the use of a racon Morse code "D" and/ or AIS transponder.
- The top mark, if fitted, is to be a standing/upright yellow cross.



The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-second session (29 November to 8 December 2006), at the request of IALA and with a view to improving the safety of navigation, approved the circulation of a recently adopted IALA Recommendation O-133, which introduces, on a trial basis, a new emergency wreck marking buoy that could be used in addition to the IALA Buoyage System. ([Ref IMO](#))

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