

## Requirements for a Certificate of Competency.

### Private Pleasure craft:

- At least 16 years of age.
- Copy of Local St. Maarten, Dutch Side residency or work permit.
- Two passport Pictures.
- Statement of good health from physician.
- Nafl 200 (leges) stamps from Island Receiver.
- If the vessel is equipped with a VHF – Radio, one must have a Marine VHF radio operators license (contact Bureau Telecommunications and Post , Obersi Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor – 542 - 5557) for an appointment.

### Commercially operated vessels:

- Same as above and older than 18 years.
- First aid Certificate from Red Cross or other competent organization with CPR.

The guideline below is to be used as a coaching tool for the examination. When you have studied the material and confident that you know all the material you can make an appointment at the St.Maarten Ports Authority Maritime Department, Nathalie Abraham Tel 5422348 EXT 223 or E-mail:

[Natahlie Abraham@portofstmaarten.com](mailto:Natahlie_Abraham@portofstmaarten.com)

Eddy Johnson: [Eddy Johnson@portofstmaarten.com](mailto:Eddy_Johnson@portofstmaarten.com) .

The test is multiple choice with 40 questions.80% correct for passing is required.

# Guideline questions for a Certificate of Competency St. Maarten N.A. **Definitions**

(Consult study book for ALL definitions)

1. What is a **vessel**?

**All** floating bodies used or fit to be used as a means of transportation by water.

2. What is a **motor vessel**?

Any mechanically or electrically propelled vessel. *A sailboat that has its sails up and its engine on is considered a motor vessel.*

What is a **sailing vessel**?

Any vessel under sail provided that, propelling machinery if fitted, is not being used.

4. What is a **passenger vessel**?

All vessels, motor or sail, that are used to transport passengers or actively transporting passengers. (passenger is person who pays for service)

5. Who is the **skipper**?

The person who steers the vessel.

*The person with a Certificate of Competency charged with the overall command and safe navigation of the vessel.*

6. Who are the **crew** on a vessel?

Those persons who perform duties on a motor or sailing vessel.

5. Who is the **skipper**?

When it is not anchored or not aground or made fast to the shore.

8. Name the 11 inland waters on St. Maarten.

1. Great bay 2. Little bay 3. Cay bay 4. Cole bay 5. Simpson bay 6. Burqueax bay (say burgo) 7. Maho bay. 8. Mullet bay 9. Simpson bay lagoon (Neth Ant. side) 10. Mullet pond. 11. Oysterpond.

10. Where are the narrow fairways on the inland waters?

The entrance to the Simpson bay lagoon, Mullet pond and Oyster pond.

*The north / south channel leading to the north side of the lagoon in front of La Palapa Marina and the channel around Snoopy Island to the south eastern part of the lagoon.*

11. How long is a short blast on the horn? A short blast is 1 –3 seconds.

How long is a long blast on the horn? A long blast is 4 – 6 seconds.

12. When must your lights be exhibited?

From sunset to sunrise, or when visibility is restricted.

**Art.....** – Indicates the number of the Article in the Regulations of Navigation on the Inland Waters  
**Colreg.....** - is the number of the rule in accordance with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea , 1972.

## LOCAL REGULATIONS

Why were these regulations instituted?

For the safety of the vessel and those on board and the knowledge of the procedures on the inland waters of the island of St. Maarten.

Where are these rules applicable?

On the inland waters of the island of St. Maarten

Which are the authorities responsible for the control of the Certificate of Competency?

The Coast Guard of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, the Maritime Police and St. Maarten Ports Authority

What is the minimum age for obtaining a Certificate of Competency? (Art 4 )

16 years non commercial, 18 years commercial.

How long is a certificate of competency valid?

Five(5) years

Which documentation must one have on board of a vessel?

- Certificate of Competency.(valid for 5 years)
- Registration book.(Valid for one year)
- Certificate of Seaworthiness\*(Valid for one year)
- Radio Operators License.(Antelecom Coralita Rd # 13 Tel:542 5557 )

*\*A Certificate of Seaworthiness is issued **every year** by the St. Maarten Ports Authority together with a new Registration book, after inspection of the vessel and safety equipment.*

A number of items are required on board a vessel in order to obtain the Certificate of Seaworthiness. These are meant to improve the safety for those on board and of the vessel.

These items may vary depending on the size of vessel however generally include:

1. Anchor and line (suitable for the size of the vessel and intended sailing area).
2. Life jackets for all on board (With light, whistle and name of vessel written on them).
3. VHF – Radio.
4. First Aid kit. (Don't forget the suntan lotion).
5. Hand flares(3) and parachute signals(3)
6. Water resistant flashlight with spare batteries.
7. Bilge pump and a bucket with rope.
8. Fire extinguisher(s).
9. Emergency fresh water.
10. Navigation lights.

## 11. Horn.

When can one's Certificate of Competence be revoked (cancelled)? (Art 5&6)

1. When one does not comply with these regulations.
2. When one misbehaves unto passengers or crew.
3. When one is deemed no longer capable of acting as a skipper due to a physical or mental disorder.

Cancellation of the Certificate for definite or indefinite period may be appealed by approaching the Executive Council within 14 days of cancellation.

What is the obligation of the skipper of a vessel with reference to carriage of his docs? (Art 9)

To always have their Certificate of Competency with them when operating a vessel.  
*To have a valid Certificate of Seaworthiness and Registration papers on board.*

When is it prohibited to act as a skipper of a vessel? (Art 10)

1. Whenever under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
2. Whenever due to illness or fatigue or any other reason the person is obviously rendered incompetent.
3. *When one does not have a valid Certificate of Competence.*
4. *When one does not have valid Registration and Certificate of Seaworthiness*

*What is the skipper of a vessel obligated to do in the event that another vessel requires assistance? (Art 12)*

*The skipper must render assistance as long as it does not endanger his/her vessel or any persons on board.*

What must one do when structural or mechanical alterations are made to the vessel? (Art 13)

Inform the Harbormaster (*St. Maarten Ports Authority N.V. Maritime Dept*) and have all relevant documentation amended.

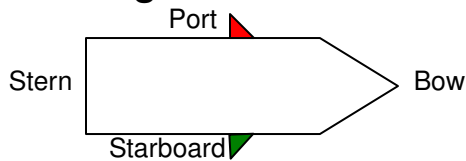
What are the obligations of the skipper of a **passenger** vessel? (Art 14)

- Not to carry more passengers than indicated on the Certificate of Seaworthiness.
- Not to carry flammable material other than that contained in a metal or plastic container.
- Not to carry persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs who are misbehaving unto passengers.
- *Not to carry any animals other than dog(s) which belong to a passenger and is leashed or in a box and does not pose a threat to other passengers. (Think of the illegal trade of various exotic animals!)*

What must one do before having any boat races on the inland waters? (Art 16)

*One must request permission to hold any races on the inland waters from St. Maarten Ports Authority N.V.*

## Steering and Sailing Rules



**WARNING: All vessels must stay clear of vessels approaching or exiting the A.C. Wathey Cruise and Cargo facility.**

**Lookout:** All vessels shall at **all times** maintain proper lookout by **sight** and **hearing** as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances.

**Safe Speed:** Every vessel shall at **all times** proceed at safe speed so that it can take **proper** and **effective** action to **avoid collision** and be stopped within a distance appropriate to the **prevailing circumstances** and **conditions**.

*In determining safe speed the following factors shall be among those taken into account:*

- *The state of visibility.*
- *At night, the presence of background lights.*
- *The maneuverability of the vessel with special reference to stopping distance and turning ability in the prevailing conditions.*
- *The state of the wind, sea and current and the proximity of navigational hazards.*
- *The traffic density.*

*Where on the inland waters must one operate at **slow speed**?*

*Near beaches, marina's and other anchored vessels and so that there is **minimal wake** from the vessel.*

To which side of a narrow channel or fairway must a vessel proceed?(Art 22 Colreg 9)  
In a narrow channel or fairway a vessel must proceed keeping as near to the outer limit which lies on her starboard side as is safe and practicable.

*How does one approach a beach?*

*As slow as possible, perpendicular to the shoreline with proper visibility over the bow, where no swimmers are located.*

*When do we speak of **restricted visibility**?*

*This is any condition in which visibility is restricted by a heavy rainstorm, fog etc.*

What must one do when visibility is restricted? (Art 15 Colreg 19)

Slow down and adjust your speed to the prevailing conditions.

How does one determine if there is danger of collision?

When the distance between the vessels decrease and the angle of approach remains the same.

What must a vessel which **does not have right of way** do in a situation where there is a risk of collision?(Art 15)

The vessel must **alter course** or **reduce speed** or **stop**, so that it is **clearly visible** to the other vessel and that there is no longer the risk of collision.

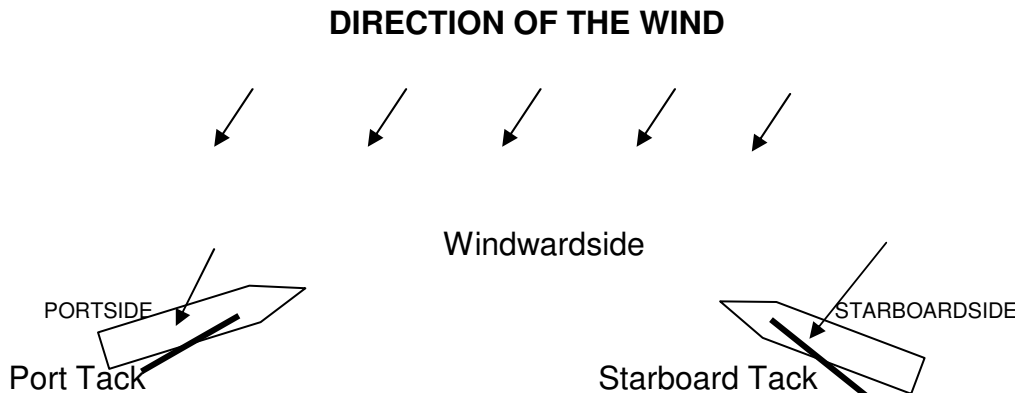
What must each vessel do when two vessels are approaching each other and there is risk of collision? (Art 20 Colreg 17 a)

1. The vessel which has right of way must maintain its course and speed. The other vessel **alters course** or **reduces speed** or **stops**, **clearly visible** and in a **timely manner**.
2. If it becomes apparent that the vessel which must give right of way is not taking any action then the vessel which has right of way must take action by its maneuver alone to avoid collision.

## SAILING VESSELS

How does one determine which "tack" a sail vessel is on, in order to determine who has right of way?

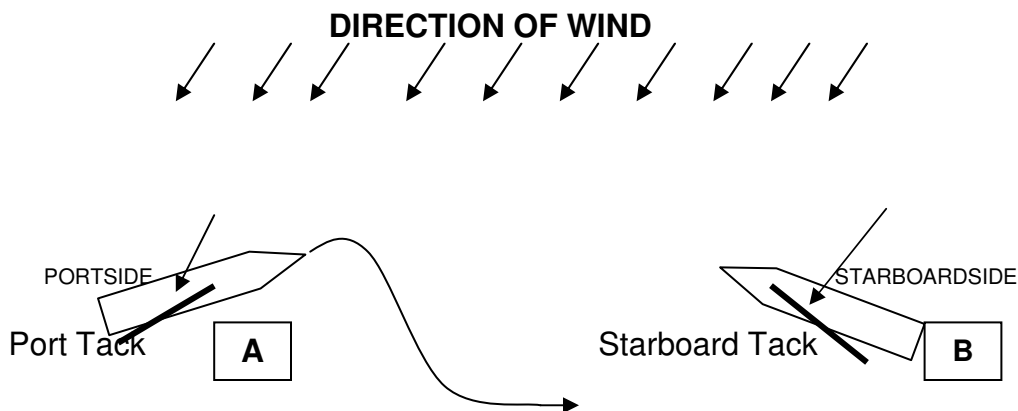
A vessel is on port tack when the wind is coming in over the port side of the vessel, a vessel is on starboard tack when the wind is coming in on the starboard side of the vessel.



For the purposes of this article the **windward** side shall be deemed to be the side opposite to that on which the mainsail is carried.(Art17c)

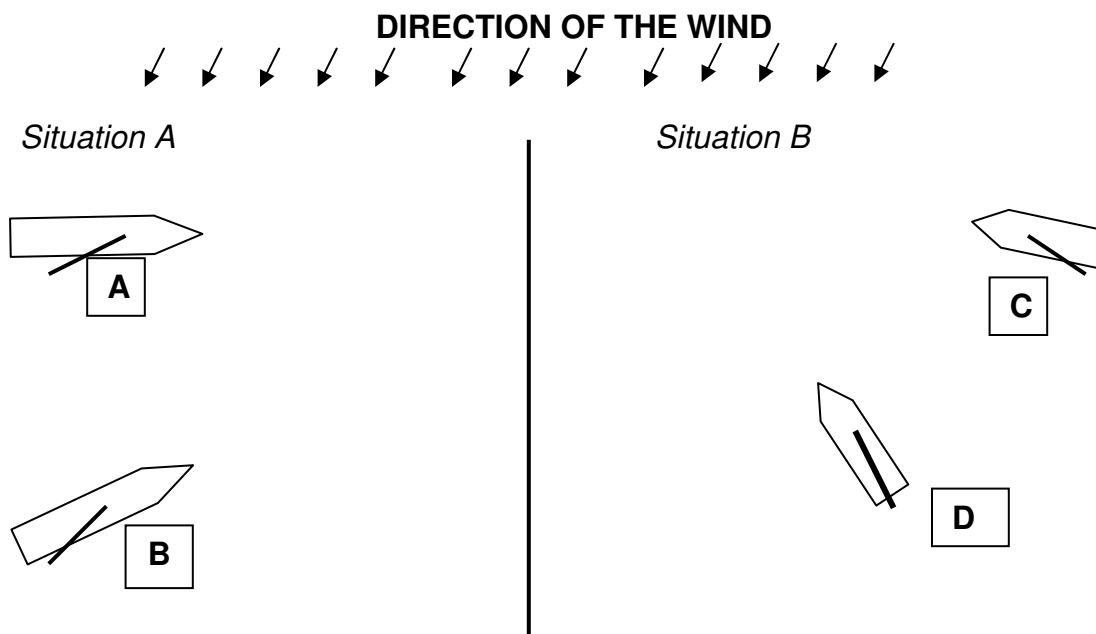
Who has right of way when two vessels are on opposite tacks (the one on port tack or the one on starboard tack)?(Art 17 )

*The vessel that has the wind coming in over the starboard side (Starboard tack) has right of way.*



In this case **VESSEL B** has right of way over **VESSEL A**. **VESSEL A** must alter course to starboard and pass behind vessel B.

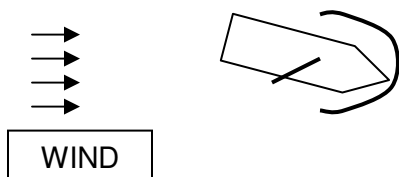
Who has right of way when two vessels are on the same tack (have the wind coming in over the same side)?(Art 17 Colreg 12)



The Windward vessel shall give way to the leeward vessel. The Leeward vessel has right of way. Vessel **B** and **D** have right of way.

If a sailing vessel with the wind coming over the port side sees another vessel to windward and cannot determine whether the windward vessel has the wind over the port or starboard side, what must it do? ( Art 17 Colreg 12)

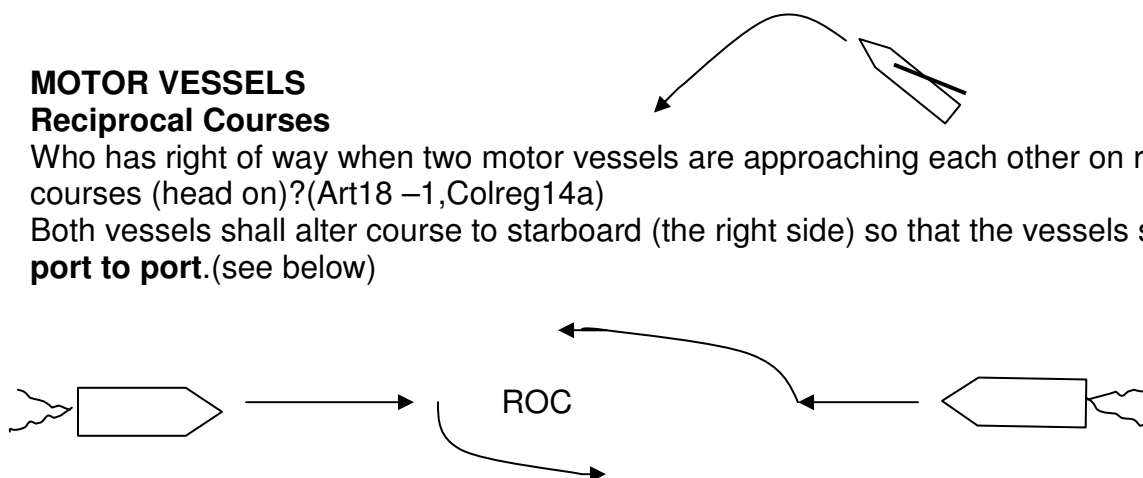
If a vessel with the wind on the port side sees a vessel to windward and cannot determine with certainty whether the other vessel has the wind on the port or starboard side, it shall keep out of the way of the other.



### MOTOR VESSELS Reciprocal Courses

Who has right of way when two motor vessels are approaching each other on reciprocal courses (head on)?(Art18 –1,Colreg14a)

Both vessels shall alter course to starboard (the right side) so that the vessels shall pass **port to port**.(see below)

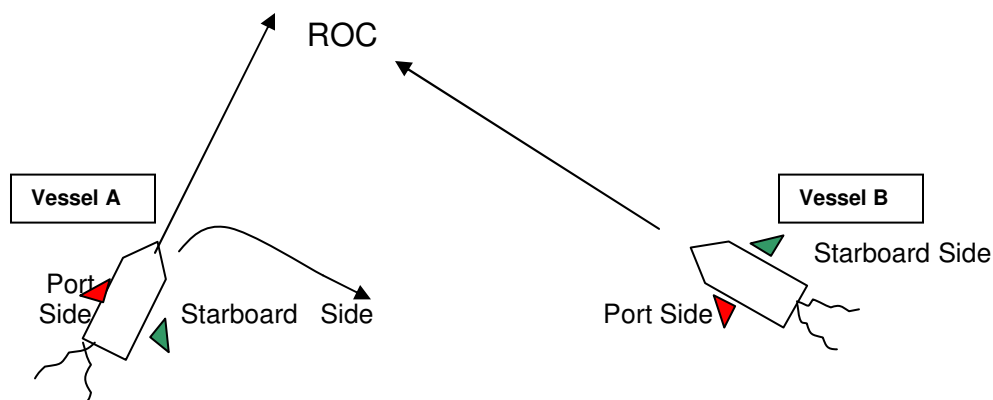


### Crossing Courses

Who has right of way when two vessels are crossing each other and there is risk of collision (ROC)?(Art 18 –2 Colreg 16)

The vessel that has the other vessel on it's own starboard side shall keep out of the way and shall, if the circumstances of the case admit, **avoid crossing ahead** of the other vessel. (See below)

(*"right has might", vessel A "sees" a red light on his right side(red=stop)*).





## Power / Sail

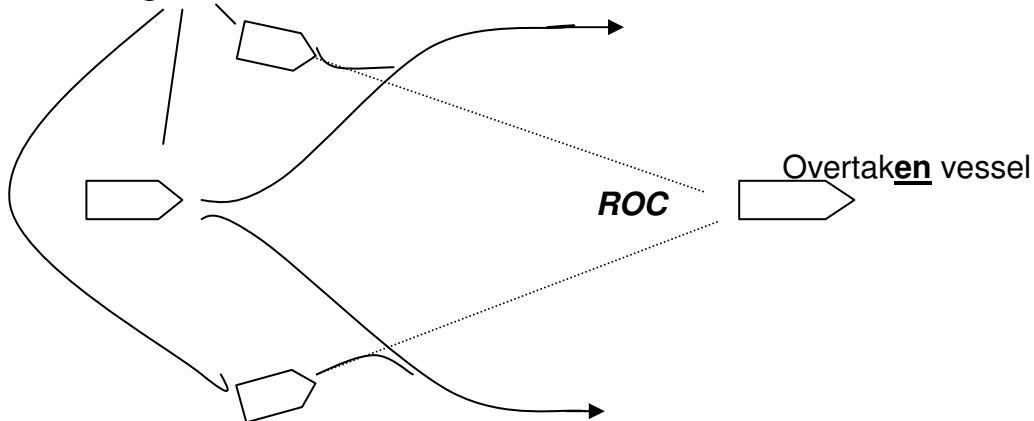
Which vessel has right of way, a sailing vessel or a power vessel?(Art18-3 Colreg 18 )  
The sailing vessel has right of way over the power vessel.

**WARNING: All vessels must stay clear of vessels approaching or exiting the A.C.Wathey Cruise and Cargo facility.(Art 19)**(this due to their size thus restricted maneuverability considering a specific line of approach and exit must be maintained to safely berth and depart)

## Overtaking

Who has right of way when a vessel is overtaking another vessel? ( Art21.Colreg 13)

Overtaking vessel



**Any vessel overtaking any other vessel shall give way to the vessel being overtaken.**  
The vessel being overtaken shall maintain course and speed.  
(**This includes sailboats that are overtaking motor boats, think of catamarans overtaking slow motorboats!**)

## Narrow Channel or Fairway

On which side of a narrow channel or fairway must a vessel proceed? (Art 22 Colreg 9)  
In a narrow channel or fairway a vessel must stay/ steer as near to the side which lies on its starboard side as is safe and practicable as possible.

## Bottom Fishing

What are the regulations for vessels underway in relation to fishing vessels engaged in bottom fishing?(Art23)

Vessels underway must keep clear of vessels that are engaged in bottom fishing. Note: this does not give the fishing vessel the right to block a fairway in use by non- fishing vessels.

## Sound Signals

When vessels are in sight of one another, a motor vessel underway, when maneuvering, is required to indicate that specific maneuver by giving the appropriate sound signals. (Art 24 Colreg34)

What sound signal must one give when altering course to starboard?  
One short blast

What sound signal must one give when altering course to port?  
Two short blasts.

What sound signal must one give when operating astern propulsion?  
Three short blasts.

What sound signal must one use when nearing a bend or an area of a channel or fairway where other vessels may be obscured by an intervening obstruction? (Art 25-1 Colreg 34e)

One prolonged blast.

What must the answer to such a signal be?

One prolonged blast.

What sound signal must one use when vessels in sight of one another are approaching each other and from any cause either vessel fails to understand the intentions or actions of the other?(Art 25 Colreg34)

Give **at least** five short blasts.

## LIGHTS

When must your lights be exhibited?(Art 1 Colreg 20)  
From sunset to sunrise, or when visibility is restricted

LIGHTS	COLOUR	ARC OF VIS	Visibility in NM Vessel< 12m	Visibility in Nm 12<Vessel< 50	
Anchor	WHITE	360			
Top light	WHITE	225	2	3	Also known as steaming light
Port light	RED	112.5	1	1	
Starboard "	GREEN	112.5	1	1	
Stern light	WHITE	135	2	2	

Which lights must a **Sail vessel underway** and a **vessel being towed** exhibit?

A **Sail vessel underway** and a **vessel being towed** must exhibit:

**Port and Starboard light.**

**Stern light.**

Which lights must a **Motor vessel less than 50 meters**, underway, exhibit?

A **Motor vessel less than 50 meters**, underway, must exhibit:

**Port and Starboard light.**

**Toplight (Steaming Light).**

**Stern light.**

Which lights must a **Motor vessel more than 50 meters** underway exhibit?

A **Motor vessel more than 50 meters**, underway, must exhibit;

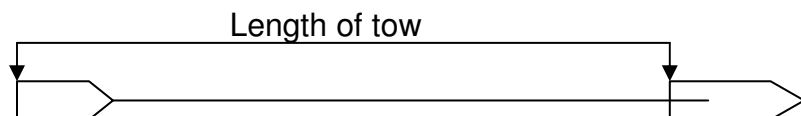
**Port and Starboard light.**

**Two Toplights.(One Forward One Aft)**

**Stern light.**

*How is the length of a tow measured?*

*The length of the tow is measured from the stern of the vessel **towing** to the stern of the last vessel **being towed**.*



Which lights must a **Motor vessel towing** another, underway, carry if the length of the tow is **200 meters or less**?

A **Motor vessel towing** another, underway, and the length of the tow is *less than 200 meters* must exhibit:

**Port and Starboard light.**

**Two Toplights (In a vertical line)**

**Stern light.**

**The vessel *being towed* must exhibit Port, Starboard and Stern light.**

Which lights must a **Motor vessel towing** another, underway, carry if the length of the tow is **200 meters or more**?

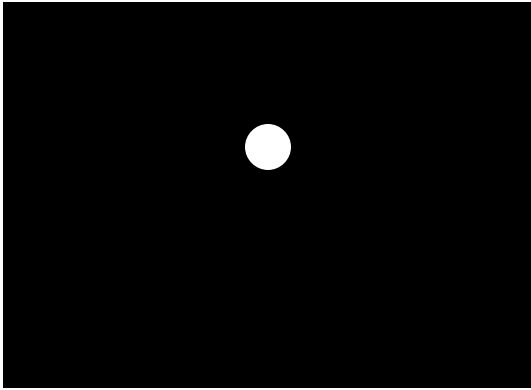
A **Motor vessel towing** another, underway, and the length of the tow is *more than 200 meters* must exhibit:

**Port and Starboard light.**

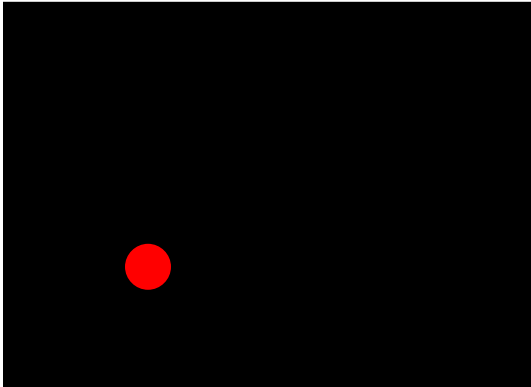
**Three Toplights.( In a vertical line)**

**Stern light.**

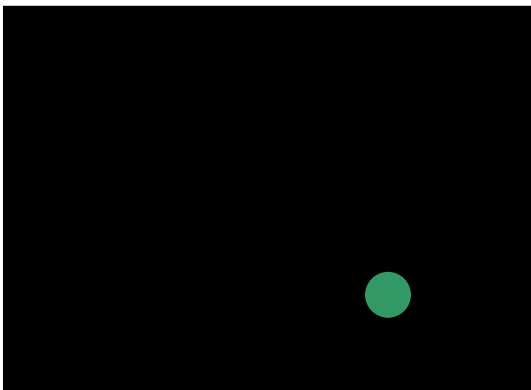
**The vessel *being towed* must exhibit Port, Starboard and Stern light.**



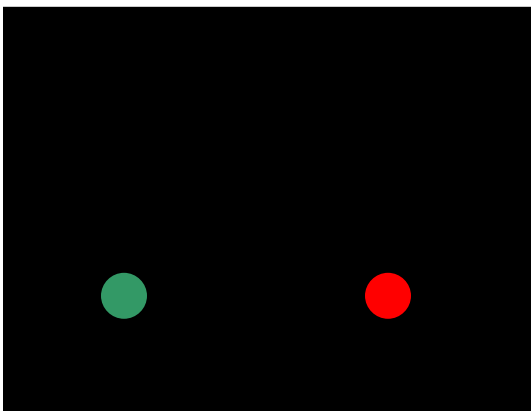
1. Anchor Light.
2. Stern light -Sailing vessel  
-Motor vessel
3. Toplight of a motor vessel.
4. Small vessel giving signal.



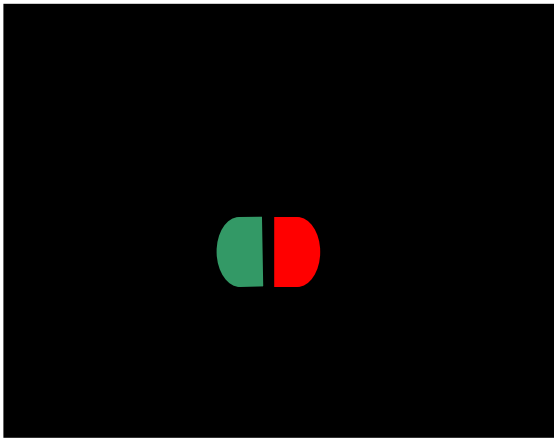
1. Port Side.
2. Sailing vessel./Vessel being towed.
3. Sailing Direction: Right to left.



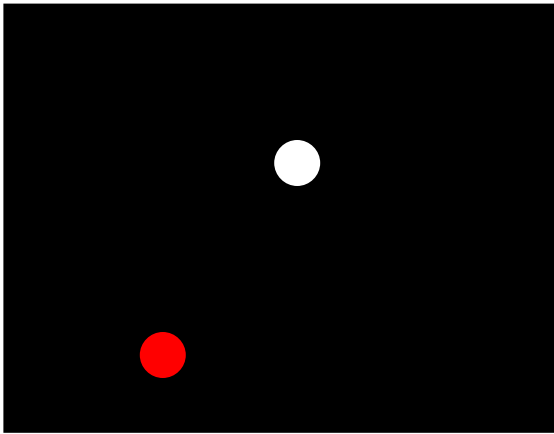
1. Starboard side.
2. Sailing vessel/Vessel being towed
3. Sailing direction: left to right.



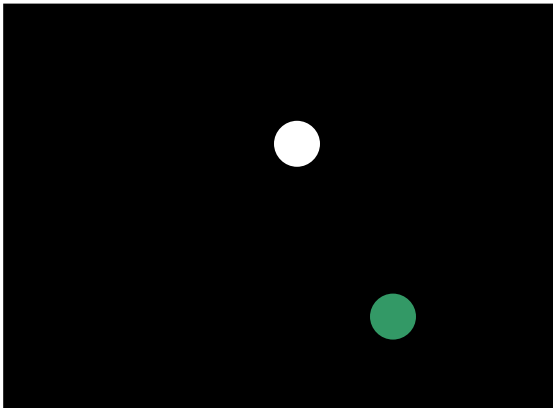
1. Head on .
2. Sailing vessel./vessel being towed.



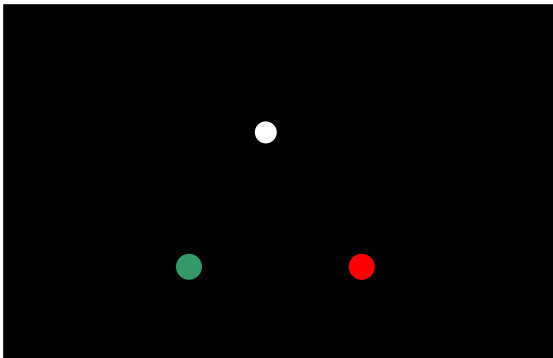
1. Head On.
  2. Sailing Vessel.
- (Combined Lights)



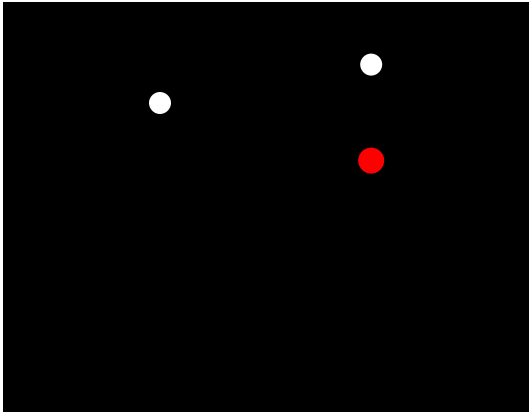
1. Port Side.
2. Motor vessel under 50 meters.
3. Sailing Direction: Right to left.



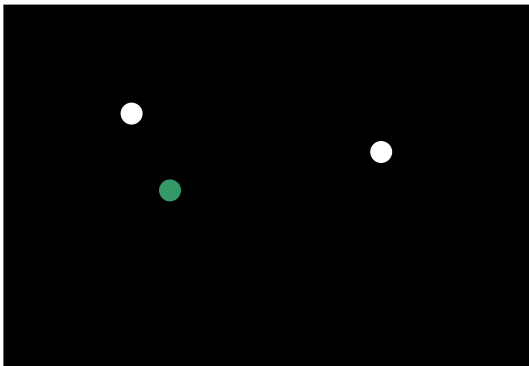
1. Starboard side.
2. Motor vessel under 50 meters.
3. Sailing Direction: Left to right.



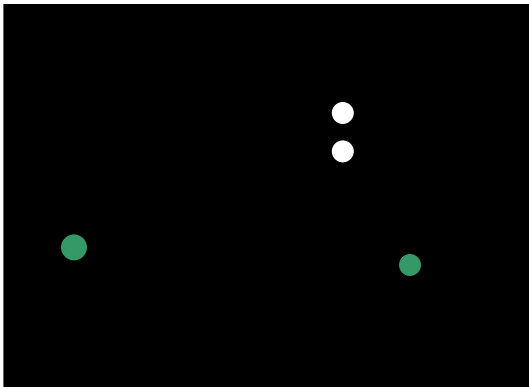
1. Head on.
2. Motor vessel under 50 meters.



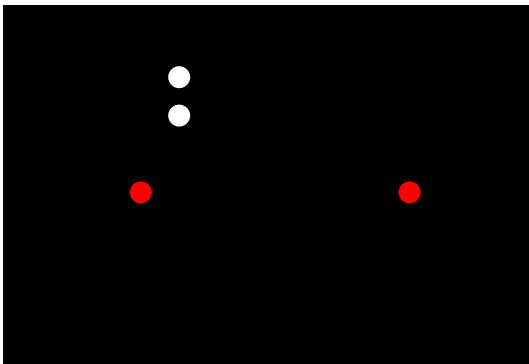
1. Port Side.
2. Motor vessel over 50 meters.
3. Sailing Direction :Right to Left.



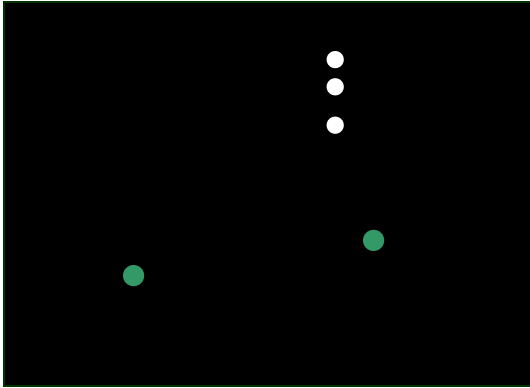
1. Starboard side.
2. Motor vessel over 50 meters.
3. Sailing Direction :left to right.



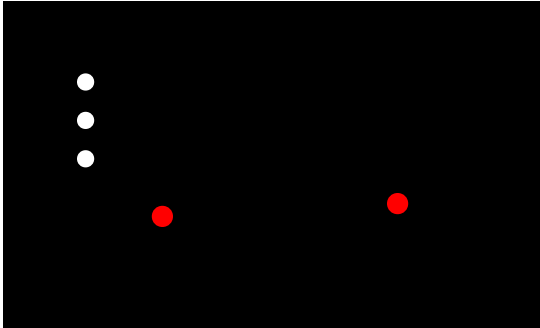
1. Starboard side
2. Motor vessel **TOWING**
3. Length of tow :Less than 200 meters.
4. One vessel in tow
5. Sailing Direction:left to right.



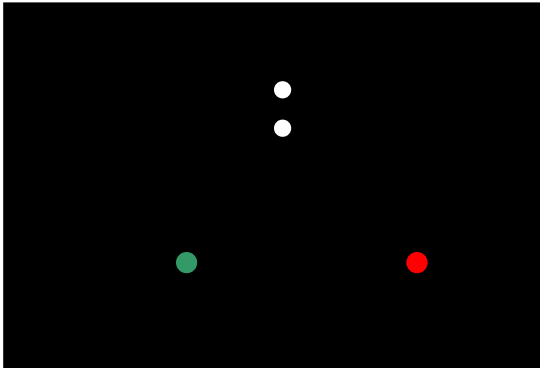
1. Port Side.
2. Motor vessel **TOWING**
3. Length of tow less than 200 meters
4. One vessel in tow.
5. Sailing direction:right to left.



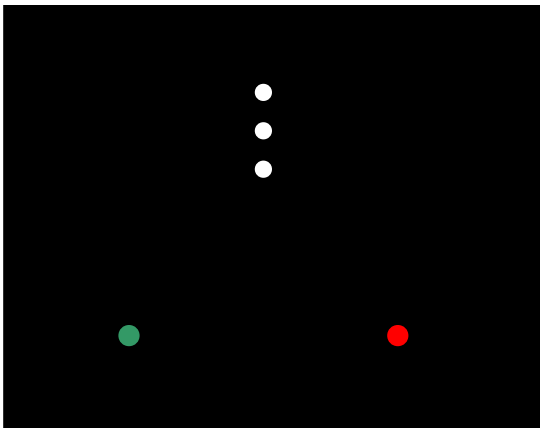
1. Starboard side
2. Motor vessel **TOWING**
3. Length of tow **OVER** 200 meters
4. One vessel in tow.
5. Sailing Direction: Left to right.



1. Port Side.
2. Motor vessel **TOWING.**
3. Length of tow over 200 meters.
4. One vessel in tow.
5. Sailing Direction :right to left.



1. Head on.
2. Power vessel over 50meters  
**OR**  
Power vessel **TOWING** another vessel.
- 3.Length of tow less than 200 meters.



1. Head on.
2. Power vessel **TOWING** another vessel length of tow **OVER 200** meters.



## General

Power vessels belonging to private ocean going vessels(tender to) need not comply with Article 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,11 and 13 of these regulations.(Art 29)

All accidents must be reported to St. Maarten Ports Authority by the parties involved.(Art 30)

The Executive Council may appoint civil servants,other than those indicated in Article 8 of the Penal Code,in order to ensure that these regulations are complied with.(Art 31)

Notwithstanding the Regulations in this ordinance, an Island Resolution may be implemented to ammend these accordingly.(Art 32)

Article 33.

1. A violation of any of these rules is punishable with a detention not exceeding two(2) months or a fine of not more than five hundred (500) guilders.
2. The skipper is punished in the case of a violation, where ever in these rules the obligation is laid on a vessel.
3. Acts punishable according to these regulations are considered offences.

This Regulation is cited as”Binnenvaartverording St. Maarten”(Inland Water Navigation Rules of St.Maarten) A.B. 1978 No 12.