
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations give effect to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, as amended.

These Regulations replace the Merchant Shipping (Distress Signals and Prevention of Collisions) Regulations 1989, as amended, and related instruments.

United Kingdom vessels (including hovercraft) wherever they may be, and other vessels in United Kingdom waters are required to comply with the International Regulations as so amended; and the signals of distress set out in Annex IV to the International Regulations are prescribed for use by vessels as such signals. The Regulations apply to seaplanes on the surface of the water, except with regard to signals of distress.

The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea are now set out in a Merchant Shipping Notice (Merchant Shipping Notice No. M.1642/COLREG 1). This incorporates changes to Rule 26, and Annexes I, II and IV adopted in November 1993 by the International Maritime Organisation (Resolution A736(18)).

Apart from the change mentioned in the International Regulations, no substantive changes are made. Merchant Shipping Notices are obtainable from the Marine Information Centre, Marine Safety Agency, Spring Place, 105 Commercial Road, Southampton, Hampshire SO15 1EG.

The Merchant Ship Search and Rescue Manual and the International Code of Signals mentioned in Annex IV of the International Regulations can be obtained from the International Maritime Organisation, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR.