

# MARITIME BUOYAGE SYSTEM

## Description of Cardinal quadrant and marks

A Cardinal mark is named after the quadrant in which it is placed.

The four quadrants (North, East, South and West) are bounded by the true bearings NW-NE, NE-SE, SE-SW, SW-NW, taken from the point of interest.

The name of a Cardinal mark indicates that it should be passed to the named side of the mark.

## North Cardinal Mark

2 black cones, one above the other, points upward  
Black above yellow

Pillar or spar

White  
VQ or Q

Topmark\*

Colour

Shape  
Light  
(when fitted)  
Colour  
Rhythm  
Q(3) every 10s

## East Cardinal Mark

2 black cones, one above the other, base to base  
Black with a single broad horizontal yellow band  
Pillar or spar

White  
VQ(3) every 5s or

## South Cardinal Mark

2 black cones, one above the other, points downward  
Yellow above black

Pillar or spar

White  
VQ(6) + Long flash every 10s or Q(6) + Long flash every 15s

Topmark\*

Colour

Shape  
Light  
(when fitted)  
Colour  
Rhythm

## West Cardinal Mark

2 black cones, one above the other, point to point  
Yellow with a single broad horizontal black band  
Pillar or spar

White  
VQ(9) every 10s or Q(9) every 15s

\* The double cone topmark is the most important feature of every Cardinal mark by day, and should be used wherever practicable and be as large as possible with a clear separation between the cones.

## Description of Cardinal Marks

