

MARITIME BUOYAGE SYSTEM

(3) SPECIAL MARKS

Special marks are not primarily intended to assist navigation but are used to indicate a special area or feature whose nature may be apparent from reference to a chart or other nautical document. For example, Ocean Data Acquisition Systems (ODAS) marks, Traffic Separation marks where use of conventional channel marking may cause confusion. Spoil Ground marks, Military exercise zone marks and Recreation zone marks.

Special marks are yellow. They carry a yellow "X" top-mark, and any light used is also yellow. To avoid the possibility of confusion between yellow and white in poor visibility, the yellow lights of Special marks do not have any of the rhythms used for white lights.

Their shape will not conflict with that of navigational marks, this means, that a special buoy located on the port hand side of a channel may be cylindrical, but will not be conical. Special marks may also be lettered or numbered to indicate their purpose.

(6) NEW DANGERS

The term "New Danger" is used to describe newly discovered hazards not yet indicated in nautical documents. "New Dangers" include naturally occurring obstructions such as sandbanks or rocks or man made dangers such as wrecks.

It should be specially noted that a "new danger" which is one not yet shown in nautical documents, may be indicated by exactly duplicating the normal mark until the information is sufficiently promulgated. A "new danger" mark may carry a Racon coded Morse "D".

Definition of Special Marks

Marks not primarily intended to assist navigation but which indicate a special area or feature referred to in appropriate nautical documents, for example:

Description of Special Marks

Topmark (if any)	Single yellow 'X' shape.
Colour:	Yellow.
Shape:	Optional, but not conflicting with navigational marks.
Light (when fitted)	
Colour:	Yellow.
Rhythm:	Any, other than those described in sections 2, 3 or 4.

Additional Special Marks

Special marks other than those listed and described in above may be established by the responsible administration to meet exceptional circumstances. These additional marks shall not conflict with navigational marks and shall be promulgated in appropriate nautical documents and the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities notified as soon as practicable.



Marketing of New Dangers

New Dangers shall be marked in accordance with these rules. If the appropriate Authority considers the danger to be especially grave at least one of the marks shall be duplicated as soon as practicable.

Any lighted mark used for this purpose shall have an appropriate Cardinal or Lateral VQ or Q light character.

Any duplicate mark shall be identical to its partner in all respects.

A new danger may be marked by a Racon, coded "D"*, showing a signal length of 1 nautical mile on the radar display.

The duplicate mark may be removed when the appropriate Authority is satisfied that information concerning the new danger has been sufficiently promulgated.

* This is subject to confirmation early in 1981.