

SOUND SIGNALS

Main and secondary fog signals shall each sound the Morse letter U to a prescribed composition of character. They shall be mounted between 12m and 35m above mean high water springs.

The main fog signal shall have a usual range of 2 sea miles and the secondary signal a usual range of 1/2 sea mile. These are minimum ranges. The secondary fog signal is to come into operation automatically in the event of the failure of the main fog signal. Both fog signals must be capable of operating at full power for at least four days from a power source independent of the main supply.

LEADING LIGHTS

For a quick check on the sensitivity of a pair of leading lights a formula is given in this catalogue, within the reference tables booklet, which gives reasonably good results in most cases.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RHYTHMIC CHARACTERS OF LIGHTS ON AIDS TO MARINE NAVIGATION

Each lighthouse authority should choose the rates for its quick and very quick lights to be either 60 or 120 flashes per minute (fl/min) or 50 and 100 fl/min, the latter set of rates being provided to cater for those users of lights which have mantle burners.

The former set of rates is preferred. The IALA recommendations for rhythmic lights are based upon a mariner being able to distinguish between the various rates of flashing lights in the same area without actually having to count the rate of the flashes. This is difficult unless the rates of flashing vary by a ratio of at least three to one form each other and efforts should be made to preserve this ratio.

It is safest to assume that confusion between white and yellow lights is liable to occur and, therefore, the rhythmic character of a yellow light should always be chosen with the understanding that the colour of the light must be mistaken for white. It is also advisable to avoid choosing rhythmic characters with high rates of flashing for green lights because such lights can be mistaken for white or blue at maximum distance.

Definitions and Remarks

- 1) A rhythmic light is a light showing intermittently with a regular periodicity. The rhythmic character of such a light is the sequence of different appearances presented by the light during a period.
- 2) A light must, on a given bearing, maintain a consistent character.
- 3) The term "long flash" which is used in the description of the long-flashing light and of the light characters reserved for South Cardinal buoys means an appearance of light of not less than 2 seconds duration.