

# IALA RECOMMENDATIONS

## CLASSIFICATION OF THE RHYTHMIC CHARACTERS OF LIGHT\*

CLASS	ABBREVIATION	SPECIFICATION
1. Fixed Light	F	A single fixed light should be used with care because it may not be recognised as an aid-to-navigation light. It shall not be used on buoys.
2. Occulting light		A light in which the total duration of light in a period is clearly longer than the total duration of darkness and all the eclipses are of equal duration.
2.1 Single occulting	Oc	An occulting light in which an eclipse of light is regularly repeated. The duration of light should not be less than three times the duration of the eclipse.
2.2 Group occulting	e.g. Oc(2)	An occulting light in which a group of eclipses, light specified in number, is regularly repeated. (i) Each duration of light within a group is of equal length and clearly shorter than the duration of light between successive groups. (ii) The number of eclipses in a group should not exceed four or, exceptionally, five. (iii) Each duration of light within a group should not be less than the duration of an eclipse. (iv) The duration of light between group should not be less than three times each duration of light within a group. (v) In a group of two eclipses, the duration of an eclipse plus the duration of the light within the group should not be less than 1s. (vi) In a group of three or more eclipses, the duration of an eclipse plus the duration of the light within the group should not be less than 2s. (NOTE:) A composite group-occulting light (e.g. Oc (2+1) is not recommended).
3. Isophase light	Iso	A light in which all the durations of light and darkness are equal.
4. Flashing light		A light in which the total duration of light in a period is clearly shorter than the total duration of darkness and all the flashes are of equal duration.
4.1 Single-flashing	F1	A light in which a flash is regularly repeated (at a rate of less than 50 fl/min). (i) The eclipse between two successive flashes should not be less than three times the duration of the flash.
4.2 Long-flashing	LF1	A single flashing light in which a flash of not less than 2s duration is regularly repeated.
4.3 Group flashing e.g.	F1(3)	A flashing light in which a group of flashes, specified in number is regularly repeated. (i) The eclipses within the group are of equal duration and clearly shorter than the eclipse between successive groups. (ii) The number of flashes in a group should not exceed five, or, exceptionally, six. (iii) The duration of an eclipse within a group should not be less than the duration of a flash. (iv) The duration of an eclipse between groups should not be less than three times the duration of an eclipse within a group. (v) In a group of two flashes, the duration of a flash plus the duration of the eclipse within the group should not be less than 1s. (vi) In a group of three or more flashes the duration of a flash plus the duration of an eclipse within a group should not be less than 2s (or 2.5s in those countries where a quick rate of 50 fl/min is used).