

Visibility Requirements

Please refer to the table below to see what the definition of the IMO COLREGS 1972 is with regards to the relation between the requested visibility per type of navigation light and the length and type of boat or vessel where applied.

Required visibility in nautical miles (nm)						
Type of navigation light	Angle	Type of boat	Boats < 12 m / 39 ft	Boats < 20 m / 65 ft	Boats < 50 m / 164 ft	Boats > 50 m / 164 ft
Starboard	112,5°	Sailing and motor boats	1 nm	2 nm	2 nm	3 nm
Port	112,5°	Sailing and motor boats	1 nm	2 nm	2 nm	3 nm
Stern	135°	Sailing and motor boats	2 nm	2 nm	2 nm	3 nm
Masthead	225°	Motor boats	2 nm	3 nm	5 nm	6 nm
All-round	360°	Sailing and motor boats	2 nm	2 nm	2 nm	3 nm
Bicolor	112,5° / 112,5°	Sailing and motor boats	1 nm	2 nm		
Tricolor	112,5° / 112,5° / 135°	Sailing boats	1 - 2 nm	2 nm		

Visibility of aqua signal navigation lights in nautical miles (nm)						
Type of navigation light	Angle	Type of boat	Series 20, 25	Series 34, 40, 41, 43, 50	Series 55	Series 70, 70M, 70D
Starboard	112,5°	Sailing and motor boats	1 nm	2 nm	2 nm	3 nm
Port	112,5°	Sailing and motor boats	1 nm	2 nm	2 nm	3 nm
Stern	135°	Sailing and motor boats	2 nm	2 nm	2 nm	3 nm
Masthead	225°	Motor boats	2 nm	3 nm	5 nm	6 nm
All-round	360°	Sailing and motor boats	2 nm	2 nm	2 nm	3 nm
Bicolor	112,5° / 112,5°	Sailing and motor boats	1 nm	2 nm		
Tricolor	112,5° / 112,5° / 135°	Sailing boats	1 - 2 nm	2 nm		

For example:

According to IMO COLREGS 1972 aqua signal series 40, 41 and 50 can be used on boats < 50 m / 164 ft. with only one exception which is the masthead light since this one has to have 5 nm visibility instead of 3 nm.