

Safe water mark



Safe water marks indicate that there is navigable water all around the mark. Most commonly it indicates the seaward limits of harbour fairways.

Safe water mark features:

- **Colour**— red and white vertical stripes.
- **Top mark** — a single red sphere.
- **Light** — exhibits a white light, isophase, occulting, or single long flash every 10 seconds.

<p>Top mark (If the buoy is not spherical, this is a very important feature by day and is fitted wherever practicable)</p> <p>Shape: Spherical or pillar or spar</p>		<p>Light, when fitted, is white, Isophase, or Occulting, or long flashing every 10 seconds, or Morse A</p> <p> </p>
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Safe water mark

When lit, this mark will usually display a single white flash (either long, occulting or isophase) every 10 seconds. Occasionally, Morse 'A' (one short, one long flash) may be displayed.

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Special Mark



This mark usually indicates a special area or feature such as spoil ground, traffic separation, cables or pipeline. They can also define a channel within a channel.

A chart of the area should be consulted to be certain of the purpose of a particular special mark and on which side to pass.

Special mark features:

- **Colour** — yellow.
- **Top mark** — when a topmark is carried, it takes the form of a single yellow X.
- **Light** — it is yellow and the rhythm may be any other than those used for the white lights of cardinal, isolated danger and safe water marks.

<p>Top mark (If fitted)</p> <p>Shape: Various</p>		<p>Light, when fitted, is yellow, and may have any rhythm not used for white lights</p>
<p>Top mark (If fitted)</p> <p>If these shapes are used they will indicate the side on which the buoys should be passed</p>		<p>Examples</p>

Special mark.

Other beacons and lights



Leading beacons

Leading beacons are used to guide boats into a port or through sections of a waterway. It is essential to consult a chart for relevant leads and other navigational aids before entering unfamiliar waters.

Most commonly, they have topmarks that are triangular in shape; the front beacon having its apex upwards and the rear beacon (which is elevated higher) has its apex downwards. When the beacons are in transit they appear to point to each other.

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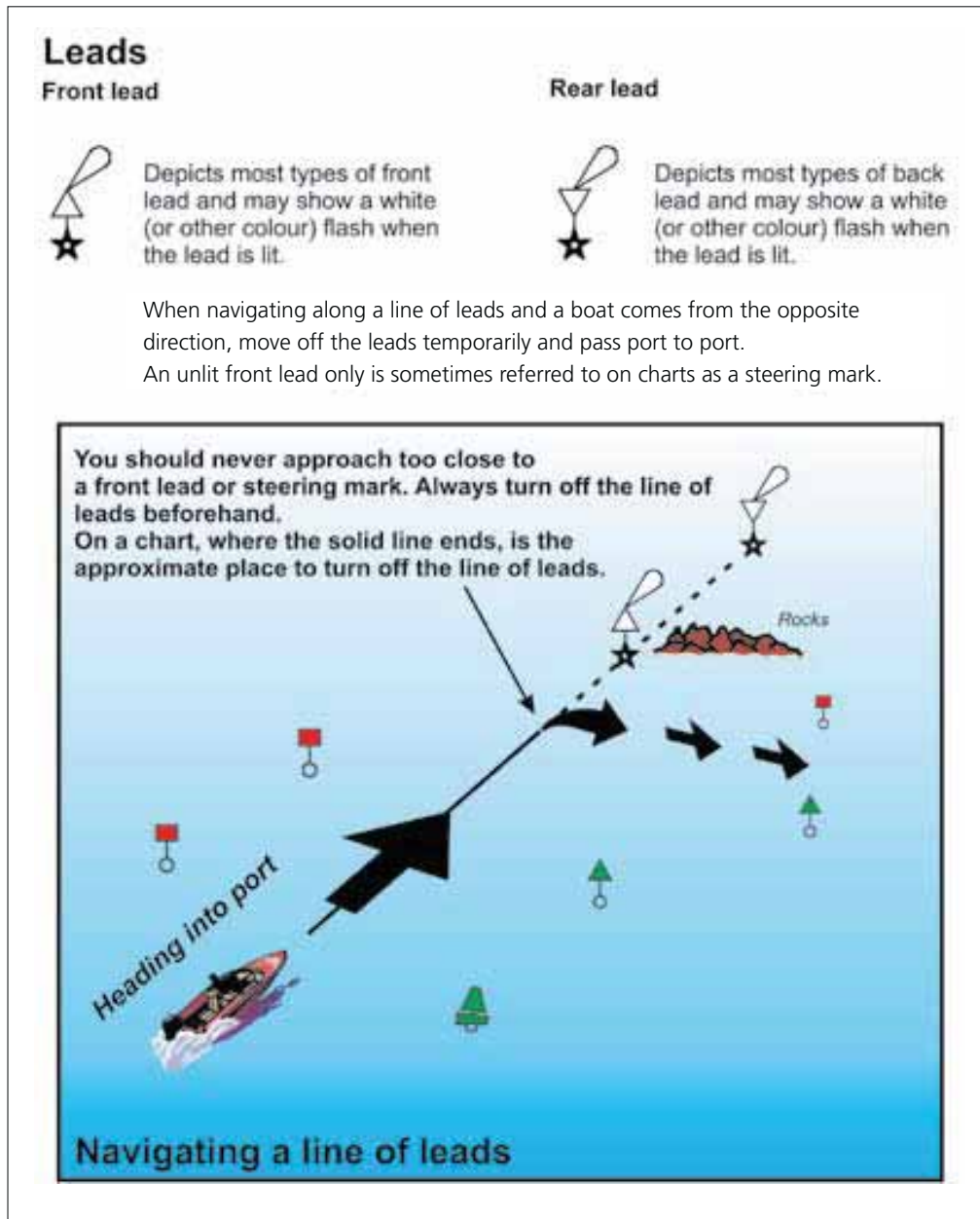
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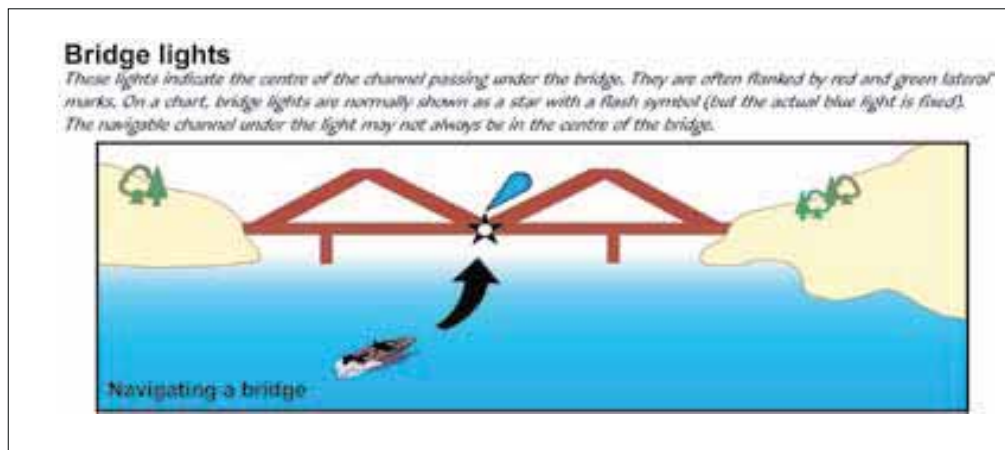
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Leading beacons.

Given that leading beacons usually indicate larger, more navigable channels, remember that if the leads are in line, then the vessel will be positioned right in the centre of that channel. Open the leads up slightly to starboard so that the ship is compliant with Rule from the Colregs that states a vessel should keep as far to the starboard side of a narrow channel as is safe or practicable. This is particularly important at night.

More recently, leading beacons do not have a topmark at all, but are lit with white day lights. At night the light is often (but not always) fixed blue. This is common when a lot of background light is present, such as in major ports. Fixed blue lights are also used to mark the centre of the channel on overhead bridges.



Bridge lights.

Directional and sector lights



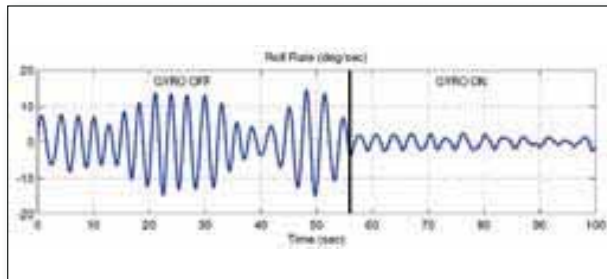
These lights assist watchkeepers in ascertaining whether or not their vessel may be proceeding into danger. Directional lights may only show through a very small arc (less than six degrees) and serve the same purpose as leading beacons.



Leads and sector lights

Sector lights normally display arcs of different coloured lights to warn mariners of hazards and advise of clear channels. Often, major lighthouses (such as the Bustard Head lighthouse in Queensland, pictured above) will be a sector light. It flashes red through the arc in which dangerous offshore rocks are located.

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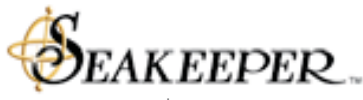


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Advisory signs

Advisory signs are installed to advise on matters of importance to navigational safety, including:

- prohibited anchoring
- speed limits
- submarine cable crossing (anchoring is prohibited within 200 metres of submarine cables. If an anchor becomes fouled near one of these signs, it should not be retrieved).

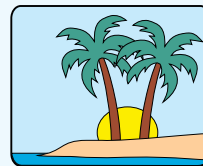


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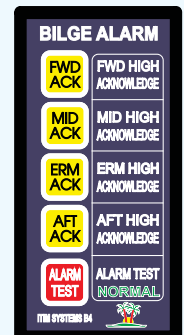
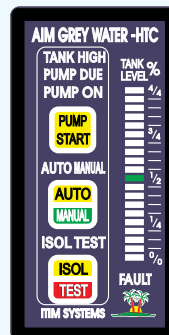
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