

Safe boating - Rules, signs and signals

Navigation rules



Keep to right, especially in narrow waterways.



Vessels meeting head-on both turn to starboard.



Overtaking vessel keeps clear of the overtaken vessel.



Powered vessel gives way to sail. Seagoing ships generally have right of way.



Give way to vessel on your starboard side.

Warning signals

■ Represents a short blast - one second

▬ Represents prolonged blast 4-6 seconds

Altering course to starboard ■

Altering course to port ■ ■

Operating stern propulsion ■ ■ ■

Make your intentions clear ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Approaching blind bend ▬

Boating signs



Speed limits are placed to protect boaters and other water users, and to preserve the environment. Obey them, and remember that 4 knots is equivalent to having your boat in gear and barely making headway.



Look behind. If your boat is producing wash, slow down to a speed where your boat produces minimal wash. This is necessary for safety and to preserve the environment.



Boating signs must always be obeyed for safety and environmental reasons.

Remember

- Carry required safety equipment, including lifejackets
- Get a weather forecast and check for updates
- Carry sufficient fuel and water
- Go easy on the drink, keep under the 0.05 limit for alcohol
- A safety label is compulsory
- When going offshore, log on and off with your local marine radio base
- When towing people, keep well clear of swimmers and obstructions.