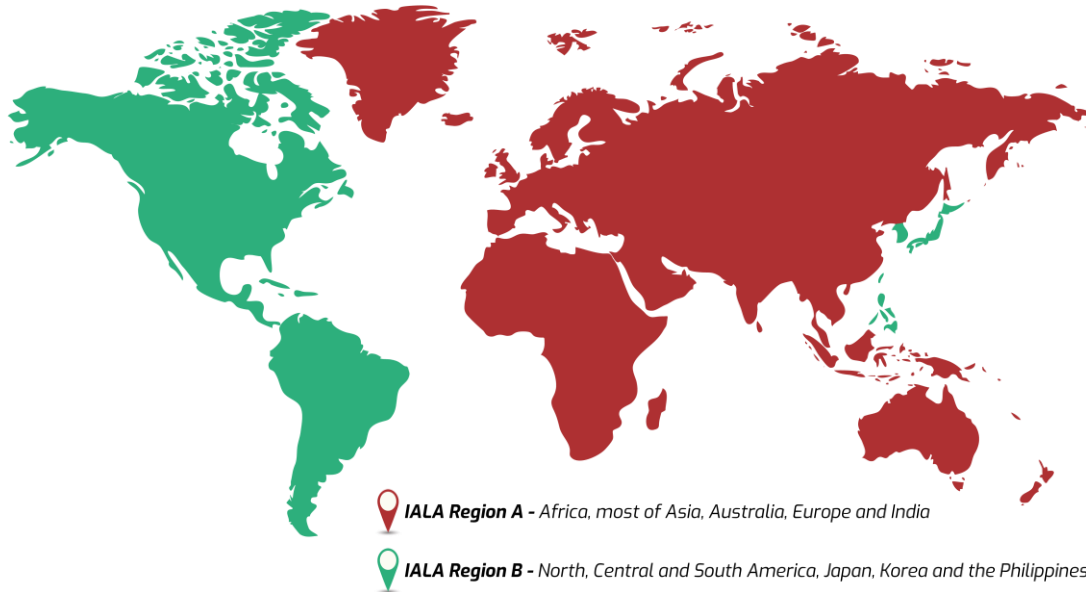


# BUOYS REFERENCE GUIDE

## IALA MARITIME BUOAGE SYSTEM



## LATERAL BUOYS/MARKS



**PORT HAND BUOY/MARKS**

- Marks out the port side of passageway or channel
- Keep left of the boat if traveling upstream
- Green in color; retroreflective
- Cylinder, pillar, or spar in shape
- Single green cylinder top mark if present
- Green light if present
- Light rhythm: flashing or quick
- Odd number markings



**STARBOARD HAND BUOY/MARKS**

- Marks out the starboard side of passageway or channel
- Keep right of the boat if traveling upstream
- Red in color; retroreflective
- Cylinder, pillar, or spar in shape
- Single red cone top mark if present
- Red light if present
- Light rhythm: flashing or quick
- Even number markings



**PORT BIFURCATION BUOY/MARK**

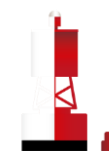
- Marks where channel splits and to proceed with the channel on the right
- Keep left of the boat if traveling upstream
- Green with single red horizontal band in color; retroreflective
- Cylinder, pillar, or spar in shape
- Single green cylinder top mark if present
- Green light if present
- Light rhythm: group flash (6s or 10s)
- Letter markings



**STARBOARD BIFURCATION**

- Marks where channel splits and to proceed with the channel on the left
- Keep right of the boat if traveling upstream
- Red with single green horizontal band in color; retroreflective
- Cylinder, pillar, or spar in shape
- Single red cone top mark if present
- Red light if present
- Light rhythm: group flash (6s or 10s)
- Letter markings

## SAFE WATER/FAIRWAY BUOY



- Marks entrance to channel, channel centers and landfall locations
- Always keep on the left side of the boat
- Red and white in color; retroreflective
- Cylinder, pillar or spar in shape
- Round top mark if present
- White light if present
- Light rhythm: group flash (6s or 10s)

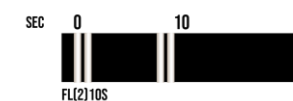
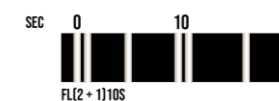
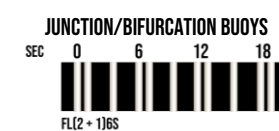
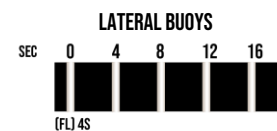
## ISOLATED DANGER BUOY



- Marks dangers that must be avoided like submerged rocks or wrecks, which may increase in distance.
- Usually placed right above the danger
- Black with one or more red horizontal bands in color; retroreflective
- Pillar or spar in shape
- Two sphere disposed of vertically top mark if present
- White light if present
- Light rhythm: group flashing (2s)

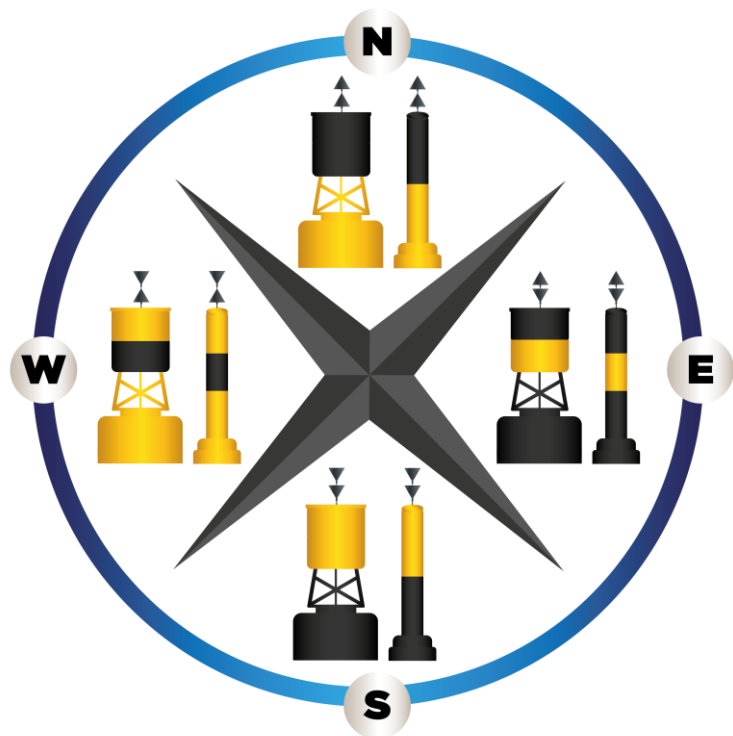


## LIGHT RHYTHM

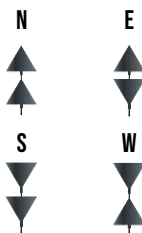


## CARDINAL BUOYS

- Marks which side of the buoy is safe to travel for safety
- pillar or spar shaped
- black and yellow in color
- white light if present



### TOP MARKS

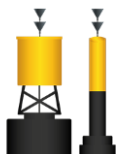


#### NORTH



- Keep on the north side of the boat
- Black above yellow in color
- Top mark is two cones pointing upward
- Light rhythm: Quick (Q) or Very Quick (VQ)

#### SOUTH



- Keep on the south side of the boat
- Yellow above black in color
- Top mark is two cones pointing downward
- Light flash: 6 VQ + long flash or 6 Q + long flash

#### EAST



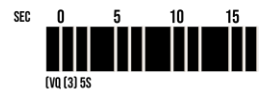
- Keep on the east side of the boat
- Black with a single yellow band in color
- Top mark is two cones opposite direction
- Light flash: 3 VQ or 3 Q

#### WEST



- Keep on the west side of the boat
- Yellow with a single black band in color
- Top mark is two cones towards each other
- Light flash: 9 VQ or 9 Q

### LIGHT RHYTHM



## SPECIAL BUOYS

### ANCHORAGE



- Marks a designated area where you can anchor your boat
- Yellow in color; retroreflective
- Cylinder, pillar or spar in shape
- Cross top mark if present
- Yellow light on any rhythm not used for white light
- With anchor symbol on the body

### CAUTIONARY



- Marks danger and general boating is not permitted, could be underwater pipeline, a firing range or seaplane base
- Yellow in color; retroreflective
- Cylinder, pillar or spar in shape
- Cross top mark if present
- Yellow light on any rhythm not used for white light
- Marked with letters on the body if present

### CONTROL



- Notes speed limits, wash restrictions, and other limitations
- White in color with limitation indicated in orange circle, in between two orange bars
- Mostly cylinder in shape
- Yellow light when equipped
- Light flash in any rhythm not used for white light
- With restrictions/limits information inside the orange circle

### INFORMATION



- Shares local information like campsite, marina, etc.
- White with orange square in between two orange bars
- Mostly cylinder in shape
- Yellow light when equipped
- Light flash in any rhythm not used for white light
- Information inside the orange square

### HAZARD



- Notes a hazard like a shoal or a rock, that is usually in the middle of, or surrounded by navigational waters
- White in color with orange diamond in between two orange bars
- Mostly cylinder in shape
- Yellow light when equipped
- Light flash in any rhythm not used for white light
- Danger can be pointed out inside the orange diamond

### NO TRESPASS



- Designates area where boats are prohibited to enter
- White in color with cross in the middle in between two orange bars
- Mostly cylinder in shape
- Yellow light when equipped
- Light flash in any rhythm not used for white light

### DIVING



- Marks location where diving occurs, and boaters should steer clear of the area to avoid accidents
- Top mark is a red flag with white diagonal stripe
- Color and shape of the buoy does not matter information inside the orange circle

### MOORING



- Notes place where boats may tie off to dock, Other boats may be in the area so speed limit should be reduced
- Typically white in color with orange cap on the top
- Usually has a sphere top mark

### SCIENTIFIC/ OCEAN DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM (ODAS)



- Buoys that record data such as weather, water temperature, currents, etc. therefore should keep distance from this buoy
- Yellow in color
- Yellow light when equipped
- Light flashes 5 times in 25 seconds

### SWIMMING BUOY



- Marks a swimming area and boats are not permitted to enter
- White in color Mostly cylindrical connected by floating ropes