

# COLREG

Convention on  
the International Regulations for  
Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972

**2026 Edition**



INTERNATIONAL  
MARITIME  
ORGANIZATION

# Contents

---

|                                                                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Foreword .....                                                                              | v  |
| Convention on the International Regulations for<br>Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 ..... | 1  |
| Article I – General obligations .....                                                       | 3  |
| Article II – Signature, ratification, acceptance, approval<br>and accession .....           | 3  |
| Article III – Territorial application .....                                                 | 4  |
| Article IV – Entry into force .....                                                         | 4  |
| Article V – Revision conference .....                                                       | 5  |
| Article VI – Amendments to the Regulations .....                                            | 5  |
| Article VII – Denunciation .....                                                            | 6  |
| Article VIII – Deposit and registration .....                                               | 6  |
| Article IX – Languages .....                                                                | 7  |
| International Regulations for Preventing Collisions<br>at Sea, 1972 .....                   | 9  |
| Part A – General .....                                                                      | 11 |
| Part B – Steering and sailing rules .....                                                   | 14 |
| Part C – Lights and shapes .....                                                            | 24 |
| Part D – Sound and light signals .....                                                      | 34 |
| Part E – Exemptions .....                                                                   | 38 |
| Part F – Verification of compliance with the provisions<br>of the Convention .....          | 39 |
| Annex I – Positioning and technical details of lights<br>and shapes .....                   | 41 |
| Annex II – Additional signals for fishing vessels fishing<br>in close proximity .....       | 48 |
| Annex III – Technical details of sound signal appliances .....                              | 49 |
| Annex IV – Distress signals .....                                                           | 52 |