

**U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security**

**United States  
Coast Guard**



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## **Private Aids to Navigation**



## **Fourteenth Coast Guard District**

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Commander (dpw)  
Fourteenth Coast Guard District  
300 Ala Moana Boulevard  
Honolulu, HI 96850-4982

Phone: (808) 535-3408  
Fax: (808) 535-3414

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## What is a Private Aid to Navigation?

The Aids to Navigation (ATON) System is a consistent way to mark the waters of the United States and its territories to assist boaters in navigation, and alert them to obstructions and hazards. This system serves the same function as the safety signals and signs used in driving on streets and highways. Private Aids to Navigation (PATON) are a category of aids to navigation maintained by any individual or organization **other than** the Coast Guard. Located in many areas of the navigable waters subject to Federal jurisdiction, these aids are maintained by, and at the expense of, the responsible party. These parties include the States, other Armed Forces, private corporations, and private individuals.

The **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** regulates all structures, moorings, buoys, markers, etc. in the water. The **marking** authority rests with the **U.S. Coast Guard** and is contingent on approval by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Once an aid is established, the owner is legally obligated to maintain it. If in violation, owners are subject to Title 14, United States Code, Part 83 (14USC83), which may include fines and revocation of their permit.

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## How to Apply for a Private Aid Permit

Contact the Army Corps of Engineers for project authorization. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has been regulating activities in the nations waters since 1890 and possesses the authority and responsibility to consider the full public interest for both the protection and utilization of water resources:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers                      Phone: (808) 438-9258  
Honolulu District                                      Fax:        (808) 438-4060  
Building 230 (Attn: CEPOH-EC-R)  
Ft. Shafter, HI 96858-5440

Review the federal regulations regarding private aids to navigation, 33CFR66 (with Private Aid Application), then complete a Private Aids to Navigation application. Mail the original to the Coast Guard Fourteenth District Office of Aids to Navigation at the following address:

Commander (dpw)                                      Phone: (808) 535-3408  
Fourteenth Coast Guard District                  Fax:        (808) 535-3414  
300 Ala Moana Boulevard  
Honolulu, HI 96850-4982

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## Temporary vs. Permanent

### Temporary:

Aids that will be on station six months or less. These aids require an Army Corps of Engineers approval and a completed Coast Guard application, Form CG-2554. Typically, these aids are not added to charts but are listed in the Special Notices section of the Coast Guard Local Notice to Mariners (LNM).

### Permanent:

These aids require the same approval process as Temporary aids.

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## Aid Marking

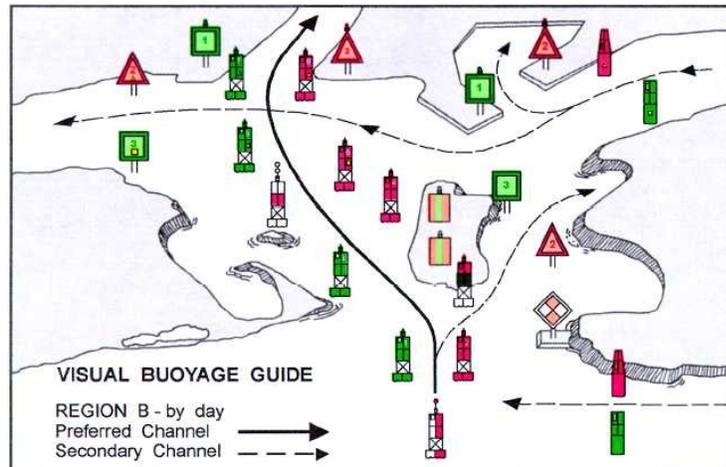
IALA Region B (Hawaiian Islands):

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## Systems

The U.S. marking system is a predominantly lateral system which conforms to the Region B requirements of the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) Maritime Buoyage System. The below color schemes for lateral marks apply to IALA Region B.

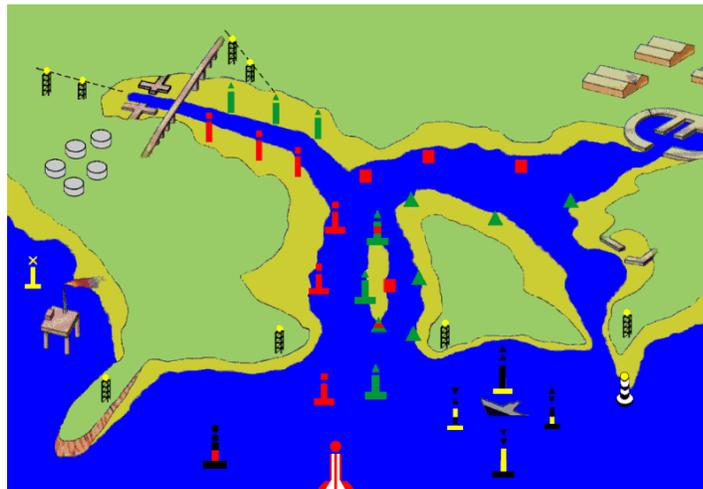
### IALA Region B Example



### IALA Region A (Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, American Territories):

Marks located in the IALA Region A exhibit reversed color significance: port hand marks will be red when following the Conventional Direction of Buoyage, and starboard hand marks will be green. The meaning of daymark and buoy shapes is identical in both regions. Specific marking and signal requirements can be found below.

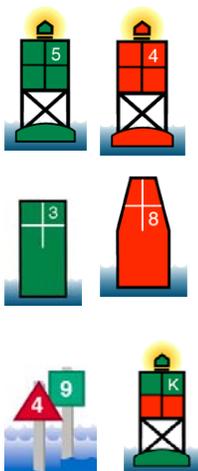
### IALA Region A Example



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## Types of Marks

(The following pictures are for reference only, for marking requirements, see enclosure (2) or contact the Coast Guard PATON Manager)



**Lateral:** Lateral marks define the port and starboard sides of a route to be followed. They may be either beacons or buoys. Their most frequent use is to mark the sides of channels; however, they may be used individually to mark obstructions outside of clearly defined channels. Lateral marks include sidemarks and preferred channel marks. Sidemarks are not always placed directly on a channel edge and may be positioned outside the channel as indicated on charts and nautical publications. Port hand marks indicate the left side of channels when proceeding in the Conventional Direction of Buoyage: beacons have green square daymarks, while buoys are green can or pillar buoys. Green lights of various rhythms are used on port hand marks. Starboard hand marks indicate the right side of channels when proceeding in the Conventional Direction of Buoyage: beacons have red triangular daymarks, while buoys are red nun or pillar buoys. Red lights of various rhythms are used on starboard hand marks. Preferred channel marks indicate channel junctions or bifurcations and may also mark wrecks or obstructions. Preferred channel marks have red and green horizontal bands with the color of the topmost band indicating the preferred channel. Buoy or daybeacon shape and the color of the light are determined by the color of the uppermost band. Preferred channel marks display a composite group flashing light rhythm.



**Isolated Danger:** These marks are erected on, moored over, or placed immediately adjacent to an isolated danger, which may be passed on all sides by system users. These marks are colored black with one or more broad horizontal red bands and will be equipped with a topmark of two black spheres, one above the other. If lighted, these marks display a white group flashing two light with a period of five seconds.



**Safe Water:** Safe water marks indicate that there is navigable water all around the mark. These mark fairways, mid-channels, and offshore approach points, and have unobstructed water all around. Safe water marks have red and white vertical stripes. Beacons have an octagonal daymark; buoys are spherical or display a red spherical topmark. A mariner can use them when transiting in offshore waters to identify the proximity of an intended landfall. When lighted, safe water marks show a white Morse Code "A" rhythm.

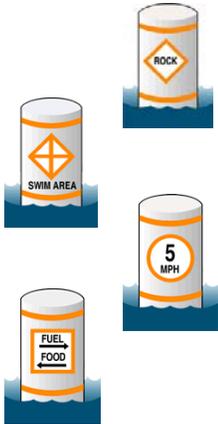


**Special:** Special marks are not primarily intended to assist safe navigation, but to indicate special areas or features referred to in charts or other nautical publications. They may be used, for example, to mark anchorages, cable or pipeline areas, traffic separation schemes, military exercise zones, ocean data acquisition systems, etc. Special marks are colored solid yellow, and show yellow lights with a slow-flashing rhythm preferred.

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## Types of Marks (Cont.)

(The following pictures are for reference only, for marking requirements, see enclosure (2) or contact the Coast Guard PATON Manager)



**Information and Regulatory:** Information and Regulatory Marks are used to alert the mariner to various warnings or regulatory matters. These marks have orange geometric shapes against a white background. When lighted, these marks display a white light with any rhythm not reserved for other types of aids. The meanings associated with the orange shapes are as follows:

- A vertical open-faced diamond signifies danger.
- A vertical diamond shape having a cross centered within indicates that vessels are excluded from the marked area.
- A circular shape indicates that certain operating restrictions are in effect within the marked area.
- A square or rectangular shape will contain directions or instructions lettered within the shape.

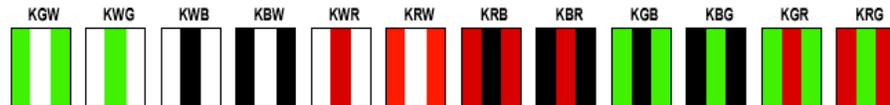


**Mooring Buoys:** Mooring buoys are white with a blue horizontal band. This distinctive color scheme facilitates identification and avoids confusion with aids to navigation. When lighted, these marks display a white light with any rhythm not reserved for other types of aids.



**Lighthouses:** Substantial structures, and/or structures in prominent positions, large navigational buoys, ranges, sector lights, and crossing marks do not fall under the IALA agreement. Contact the Coast Guard Office of Aids to Navigation for marking information and requirements.

Ranges may be lettered.



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## Specific Aid Information

Technical Specifications are available from the Coast Guard. Contact the Private Aids to Navigation Manager at [D14LNM@uscg.mil](mailto:D14LNM@uscg.mil) or (808) 541-2317.

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## Sources of Supply

**Sources of Supply:** Many retailers carry acceptable types of buoys. A list of some of these sources of supply is listed. This list is provided for guidance, and does not list all manufacturers. For more information consult sources such as the local yellow pages or the internet. Sign makers are typically good sources for dayboards.

### Buoys (listed alphabetically)

Curd Enterprises, Incorporated  
476 Long Point Road  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464-8206  
(800) 968-3091  
[www.curdbuoy.com](http://www.curdbuoy.com)

Hanlin, Incorporated  
4326 SE Woodstock, Suite 525  
Portland, OR 97206  
(503) 761-1059

Northwest Maritime Consultants, LLC  
14210 – 80<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Puyallup, WA 98372  
(253) 370-6980 or (206) 227-1833

Pacific Industrial Supply  
1220 W Nickerson Street  
Seattle, WA 98119  
(206) 224-9058  
[www.pacificindustrial.com](http://www.pacificindustrial.com)

Premier Materials Technology, Incorporated  
7401 Central Avenue, NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55432  
(800) 262-2275  
[www.premierfloats.com](http://www.premierfloats.com)

Smith & Nephew Rolyan, Incorporated  
P.O. Box 68  
Germantown, WI 53022  
(888) 269-2869  
[www.rolyanbuoys.com](http://www.rolyanbuoys.com)

Urethane Technologies, Incorporated  
30150 Eden Church Road  
Denham Springs, LA 70726  
(225) 664-9936  
[www.utibuoys.com](http://www.utibuoys.com)

Gilman Corporation  
P.O. Box 68  
Gilman, CT 06336-0062  
(800) 622-3626  
[www.gilmancorp.com](http://www.gilmancorp.com)

Jovanovich Supply Company  
15636 Des Moines Memorial Drive  
Sea-Tac, WA 98148  
(206) 243-5991

Neumann's Plastic Products  
P.O. Box 147  
Klamath Falls, OR 97601  
(541) 882-7701

Polyform U.S., Ltd.  
7030 S 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Kent, WA 98032  
(253) 872-0300  
[www.polyformus.com](http://www.polyformus.com)

Sea-Land Industries  
3409 S 37<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tacoma, WA 98409  
(253) 838-0755

Topper Industries  
1403 Chelsea Avenue  
P.O. Box 1587  
Vancouver, WA 98668  
(360) 694-9261  
[www.topperfloats.com](http://www.topperfloats.com)

Watermark Navigation Systems  
12 Gilford East Drive  
Gilford, NH 03246  
(888) 628-2869  
[www.navbuoy.com](http://www.navbuoy.com)

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**Lighting Systems (listed alphabetically)**

Automatic Power, Incorporated  
1240 Logan Avenue, Suite H  
P.O. Box 2349  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
(714) 540-6845  
[www.automaticpower.com](http://www.automaticpower.com)

Carmanah Technologies,  
Incorporated  
Building 4-203 Harbor Road  
Victoria, BC Canada V9A3S2  
(250) 380-0052  
[www.carmanah.com](http://www.carmanah.com)

CR Control Systems, Incorporated  
P.O. Box 87  
Woodstock, VT 05091  
(808) 457-2313  
[www.crconsys.com](http://www.crconsys.com)

Flash Technology Corporation  
55 Lake Street  
Nashua, NH 03060  
(603) 883-6500  
[www.flashtechology.com](http://www.flashtechology.com)

Tideland Signal Corporation  
4310 Directors Row  
Houston, TX 77092-8708  
(713) 681-6101  
[www.tidelandsignal.com](http://www.tidelandsignal.com)

**Reflective Tape (listed alphabetically)**

High Intensity Retro-reflective tape: silver, white, yellow, red and green:

3M Corporation  
Traffic Controls Materials Division  
3M Center, Building 225-5S-08  
St. Paul, MN 55133225  
Phone: (800) 553-1380

Avery-Dennison Corporation  
Reflective Films Division  
6565 W. Howard Street  
Niles, IL 60714  
Phone: (800) 327-5917 x7226  
FAX: (888) 327-1434

Local: 3M Corporation  
P.O. Box 30448  
Honolulu, HI 96820  
Phone: (808) 422-2721

Note:

- Bulk orders only.
- Ask for pressure sensitive paper.

Sun Industries  
Signage Design and Implementation  
660 Mapunapuna Street  
Honolulu, HI 96819-2031  
(808) 833-2502

Note:

- For backing material, ask for the reflective type.
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