

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam  
Deck Officer Endorsements  
Q300 Rules of the Road - Inland  
(Sample Examination)

**Choose the best answer to the following multiple choice questions.**

**NO** reference materials are authorized for use on this exam.

- 1.** INLAND ONLY A light used to signal passing intentions must be an \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) all-round white or yellow light
  - (B) alternating red and yellow light
  - (C) alternating white and yellow light
  - (D) all-round white light only

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

- 2.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND "safe speed" is defined as that speed where \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) no wake comes from your vessel
  - (B) you are traveling slower than surrounding vessels
  - (C) you can stop within your visibility range
  - (D) you can take proper and effective action to avoid collision

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

- 3.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND If two sailing vessels are running free with the wind on the same side, which one must keep clear of the other?
- (A) The one with the wind closest astern
  - (B) The one to leeward
  - (C) The one to windward
  - (D) The one with the wind closest abeam

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

- 4.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND A vessel hearing a fog signal forward of her beam has not determined if risk of collision exists. What shall she reduce speed to?
- (A) safe speed
  - (B) bare steerageway
  - (C) half speed
  - (D) moderate speed

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**5.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Lighting requirements in inland waters are different from those for international waters for \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) barges being towed astern
- (B) vessels pushing ahead
- (C) vessels not under command
- (D) All of the above

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**6.** INLAND ONLY The term "Great Lakes", as defined by the Inland Rules of the Road, does NOT include \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) portions of the Calumet River
- (B) the St. Lawrence River to Trois-Rivières
- (C) portions of the Chicago River
- (D) Saginaw Bay

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**7.** INLAND ONLY You are on a vessel that the Secretary has determined cannot comply with the spacing requirement for masthead lights. What is required in this situation?

- (A) The vessel must be altered to permit full compliance with the rules.
- (B) The vessel must carry only the lights that comply with the rules; the others may be omitted.
- (C) An all-round light should be substituted for the after masthead light and the stern light.
- (D) The vessel's lights must comply as closely as possible.

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**8.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND By definition which vessel is unable to keep out of the way of another vessel?

- (A) Vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver
- (B) Vessel engaged in fishing
- (C) Sailing vessel
- (D) Vessel towing

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

- 9.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND When navigating in restricted visibility, what action shall a power-driven vessel take?
- (A) when making way, sound one prolonged blast at intervals of not more than one minute
  - (B) have her engines ready for immediate maneuver
  - (C) operate at a speed to be able to stop in the distance of her visibility
  - (D) stop her engines when hearing a fog signal forward of her beam, even if risk of collision does not exist

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

- 10.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND An authorized light to assist in the identification of submarines operating on the surface is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) blue rotating light
  - (B) flashing white light
  - (C) flashing sidelight
  - (D) intermittent flashing amber/yellow light

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

- 11.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND According to the Navigation Rules, you may depart from the Rules when \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) no vessels are in sight visually
  - (B) you are in immediate danger
  - (C) out of sight of land
  - (D) no vessels are visible on radar

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

- 12.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are approaching another vessel. She is about one mile distant and is on your starboard bow. You believe she will cross ahead of you. She then sounds a whistle signal of five short blasts. You should \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) make a large course change, and slow down if necessary
  - (B) wait for another whistle signal from the other vessel
  - (C) answer the signal and hold course and speed
  - (D) reduce speed slightly to make sure she will have room to pass

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**13. INLAND ONLY** Vessels engaged in fishing may show the additional signals as described in Rule 26 when they are in which of the following situations?

- (A) fishing in a traffic separation zone
- (B) in a narrow channel
- (C) in close proximity to other vessels engaged in fishing
- (D) trolling

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**14. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** What is a requirement for any action taken to avoid collision?

- (A) The action taken must include changing the speed of the vessel.
- (B) The action must be positive and made in ample time.
- (C) When in sight of another vessel, any action taken must be accompanied by sound signals.
- (D) All of the above

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**15. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** A traffic separation zone is that part of a traffic separation scheme which \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) is designated as an anchorage area
- (B) separates traffic proceeding in one direction from traffic proceeding in the opposite direction
- (C) is located between the scheme and the nearest land
- (D) contains all the traffic moving in the same direction

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**16. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** A power-driven vessel has on her port side a sailing vessel which is on a collision course. What action is the power-driven vessel required to take?

- (A) stop her engines
- (B) maintain course and speed
- (C) keep clear
- (D) sound one blast and turn to starboard

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**17. INLAND ONLY** The term "Great Lakes", as defined by the Inland Rules of the Road, includes part of the \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) Calumet River
- (B) St. Lawrence River
- (C) Chicago River
- (D) All of the above

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**18.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND What does the word "length" refer to?

- (A) Length between the perpendiculars
- (B) Registered length
- (C) Waterline length
- (D) Length overall

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**19.** INLAND ONLY Vessels "A" and "B" are meeting on a river as shown in illustration D041RR below and will pass 1/4 mile apart. Which light(s) on the tug & barge will you see if you are on vessel "A"?

- (A) a special flashing light
- (B) green sidelights
- (C) two white masthead lights in a vertical line
- (D) All of the above

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**20.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND A power-driven vessel has on her port side a sailing vessel which is on a collision course. The power-driven vessel is to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) stop her engines
- (B) keep clear, passing at a safe distance
- (C) maintain course and speed
- (D) sound one blast and turn to starboard

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**21.** INLAND ONLY A power-driven vessel crossing a river on the Great Lakes or Western Rivers, must keep out of the way of which of the following power-driven vessels?

- (A) ascending the river without a tow
- (B) descending the river with a tow
- (C) ascending the river with a tow
- (D) All of the above

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**22.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Vessel "A" is underway and pushing ahead when vessel "B" is sighted off the starboard bow as shown in illustration D005RR below. Which statement is TRUE?

- (A) Vessel "B" is the stand-on vessel because it is to starboard of vessel "A".
- (B) Neither vessel is the stand-on vessel.
- (C) Vessel "A" is the stand-on vessel because it is to the port side of vessel "B".
- (D) Vessel "A" is the stand-on vessel because it is pushing ahead.

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**23.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND What is TRUE when operating in fog and other vessels are detected by radar?

- (A) You should make an ample change to port for a vessel crossing on the starboard bow.
- (B) You should determine the course and speed of all radar contacts at six minute intervals.
- (C) You should maneuver in ample time if a close-quarters situation is developing.
- (D) Long-range scanning will provide early warning of ALL other vessels within radar range.

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**24.** INLAND ONLY You are on power-driven vessel "A" and power-driven vessel "B" desires to overtake you on the starboard side as shown in illustration D038RR below. After the vessels have exchanged one blast signals what action should you take?

- (A) alter course to the left
- (B) alter course to the left or right to give vessel "B" more sea room
- (C) slow your vessel until vessel "B" has passed
- (D) hold course and speed

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**25.** INLAND ONLY A power-driven vessel proceeding downstream in a narrow channel on the Western Rivers sights another power-driven vessel moving upstream. Which vessel has the right of way?

- (A) The vessel moving downstream with a following current
- (B) The vessel moving upstream against the current
- (C) The vessel sounding the first whistle signal
- (D) The vessel located more towards the channel centerline

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**26. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** What describes a head-on situation?

- (A) Seeing both sidelights of a vessel directly off your starboard beam
- (B) Seeing two forward white towing lights in a vertical line on a towing vessel directly ahead
- (C) Seeing both sidelights of a vessel directly ahead
- (D) Seeing one red light of a vessel directly ahead

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**27. INLAND ONLY** Two power-driven vessels are meeting in a narrow channel on the Great Lakes as shown in illustration D037RR below. Vessel "A" is downbound with a following current. Vessel "A" shall do which of the following?

- (A) initiate the maneuvering signals
- (B) propose the manner of passage
- (C) have the right of way
- (D) All of the above

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**28. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** The rule regarding look-outs applies \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) between dusk and dawn
- (B) in heavy traffic
- (C) in restricted visibility
- (D) All of the above

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**29. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** The Rules state that risk of collision shall be deemed to exist \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) if the bearing of an approaching vessel does not appreciably change
- (B) if one vessel approaches another so as to be overtaking
- (C) whenever two vessels approach from opposite directions
- (D) whenever a vessel crosses ahead of the intended track of another vessel

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**30. INLAND ONLY** When two power-driven vessels are meeting on the Great Lakes, Western Rivers, or waters specified by the Secretary, where there is a current, which vessel shall sound the first passing signal?

- (A) The vessel that is towing regardless of the current
- (B) The vessel going upstream stemming the current
- (C) The vessel downbound with a following current
- (D) Either vessel

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**31. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** You see another vessel approaching, and its compass bearing does not significantly change. This would indicate that \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) you are the stand-on vessel
- (B) risk of collision exists
- (C) a special circumstances situation exists
- (D) the other vessel is dead in the water

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**32. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Vessel "A" is overtaking vessel "B" as shown in illustration D017RR below. Vessel "B" should do which of the following?

- (A) may steer various courses and vessel "A" must keep clear
- (B) should change course to the right
- (C) should slow down until vessel "A" has passed
- (D) should hold her course and speed

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**33. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** When shall the stand-on vessel change course and speed?

- (A) When the two vessels become less than half a mile apart
- (B) After the give-way vessel sounds one blast in a crossing situation
- (C) When action by the give-way vessel alone cannot prevent collision
- (D) The stand-on vessel may change course and speed at any time as it has the right of way

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**34. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** You are in charge of a stand-on vessel in a crossing situation. The other vessel is 1.5 miles to port. You believe that risk of collision exists. You should \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) take avoiding action only after providing the give-way vessel time to take action, and determining that her action is not appropriate
- (B) immediately sound the danger signal
- (C) hold course and speed until the point of extremis, and then sound the danger signal, taking whatever action will best avert collision
- (D) take avoiding action immediately upon determining that risk of collision exists

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**35. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Navigation lights must be displayed in all weathers from sunset to sunrise. They also \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) must be displayed when moored to a pier
- (B) must be displayed when day signals are being used
- (C) may be displayed during daylight
- (D) may be extinguished at night on open waters when no other vessels are in the area

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**36. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** You are approaching another vessel at night. You can see both red and green sidelights and, above the level of the sidelights, three white lights in a vertical line. The vessel may be \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) underway and dredging
- (B) trawling
- (C) not under command
- (D) towing a tow more than 200 meters astern

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**37. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** What is the minimum length of vessels required to show two anchor lights?

- (A) 40 meters
- (B) 50 meters
- (C) 60 meters
- (D) 70 meters

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**38. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** By day, when it is impracticable for a small vessel engaged in diving operations to display the shapes for a vessel engaged in underwater operations, she shall display \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) three black balls in a vertical line
- (B) a black cylinder
- (C) a rigid replica of the International Code flag "A"
- (D) two red balls in a vertical line

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**39.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which vessel would be required to show a white light from a lantern exhibited in sufficient time to prevent collision?

- (A) A rowboat
- (B) A small vessel fishing
- (C) A 9-meter sailing vessel
- (D) A 6-meter motorboat

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**40.** INLAND ONLY A law enforcement vessel patrolling a marine regatta may exhibit a flashing blue light or which of the following alternates?

- (A) an alternately flashing red and yellow light
- (B) a high intensity flashing white light (strobe)
- (C) two amber lights in a horizontal line
- (D) a fixed green light over a red flashing light

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**41.** INLAND ONLY Which of the following is indicated by a vessel displaying a flashing blue light?

- (A) a vessel transferring dangerous cargo
- (B) a law enforcement vessel
- (C) a vessel engaged in a race
- (D) a work boat

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

**42.** INLAND ONLY A commercial vessel engaged in public safety activities may display a(n) identity light(s). Which of the following is appropriate for these activities?

- (A) flashing yellow light
- (B) flashing blue light
- (C) alternately flashing red and yellow light
- (D) alternately flashing blue and red light

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

**43.** INLAND ONLY You are overtaking another power-driven vessel in a narrow channel. The other vessel will have to move to allow you to pass. You wish to overtake the other vessel and leave her on your starboard side. Your first whistle signal should be \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) two prolonged blasts followed by one short blast
- (B) one short blast
- (C) two prolonged blasts followed by two short blasts
- (D) two short blasts

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

- 44. INLAND ONLY** You are approaching a sharp bend in a river. You have sounded a prolonged blast and it has been answered by a vessel on the other side of the bend. Which statement is TRUE?
- (A) The vessel downriver must stop her engines and navigate with caution.
  - (B) No further whistle signals are necessary.
  - (C) If power driven, both vessels must exchange passing signals when in sight and passing within one-half mile of each other.
  - (D) Both vessels must immediately sound passing signals whether or not they are in sight of each other.

*If choice C is selected set score to 1.*

- 45. INLAND ONLY** At night, a light signal consisting of two flashes by a vessel indicates \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) an intention to leave another vessel to starboard
  - (B) that the vessel is in distress
  - (C) an intention to communicate over radiotelephone
  - (D) an intention to leave another vessel to port

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

- 46. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** You are at anchor in fog on a 120-meter power-driven vessel. You hear the fog signal of a vessel approaching off your port bow. You may sound \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) one prolonged, one short and one prolonged
  - (B) one prolonged blast
  - (C) two short blasts
  - (D) one short, one prolonged, and one short blast

*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

- 47. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND** Which vessel sounds the same fog signal when underway or at anchor?
- (A) A vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver
  - (B) A sailing vessel
  - (C) A vessel constrained by her draft
  - (D) A vessel not under command

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**48.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND A vessel anchored in fog may warn an approaching vessel by sounding \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) one short, one prolonged, and one short blast of the whistle
- (B) the whistle continuously
- (C) three distinct strokes on the bell before and after sounding the anchor signal
- (D) five or more short and rapid blasts of the whistle

*If choice A is selected set score to 1.*

**49.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are underway in fog when you hear the following signal: one short blast, one prolonged blast and one short blast in succession. Which of the following would it be?

- (A) A sailing vessel underway with the wind abaft the beam
- (B) A power-driven vessel underway and making way through the water
- (C) A vessel towing
- (D) A vessel at anchor

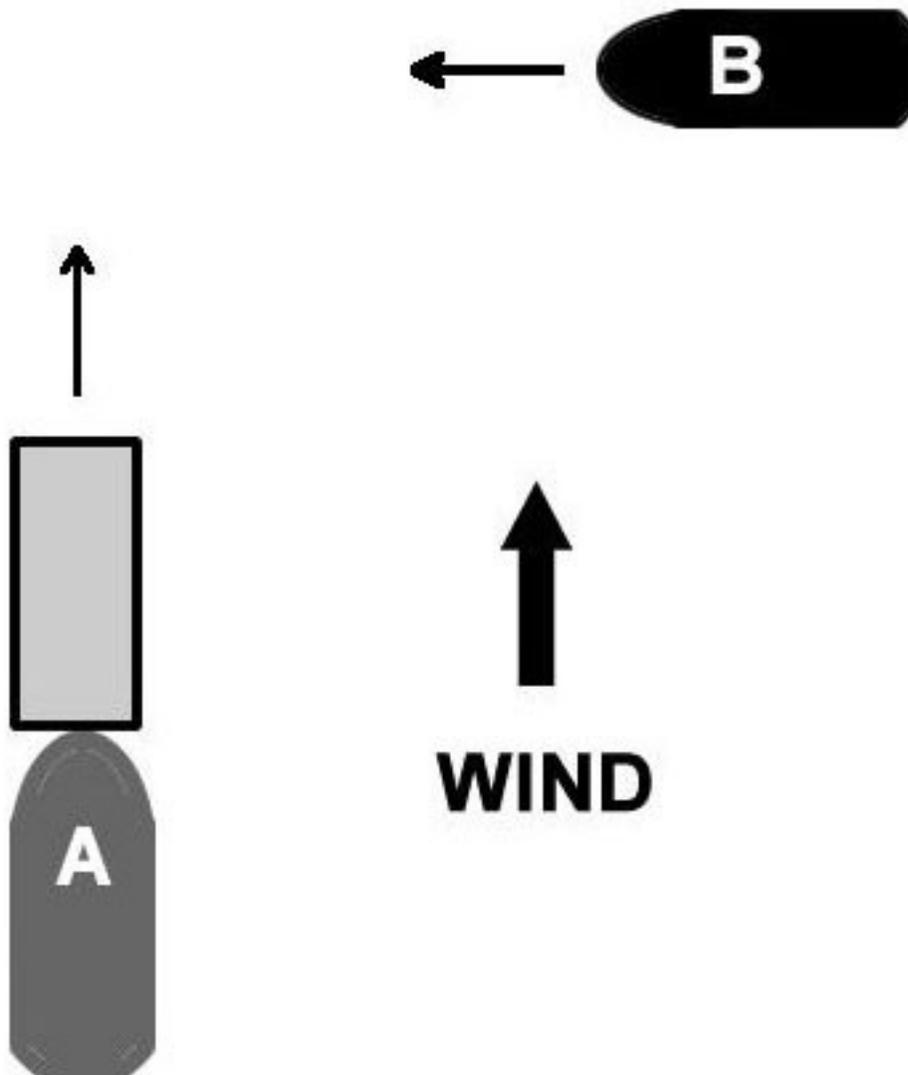
*If choice D is selected set score to 1.*

**50.** BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are approaching another vessel on crossing courses. She is approximately half a mile distant and is presently on your starboard bow. You believe she will cross ahead of you. She then sounds a whistle signal of five short blasts. You should \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) reduce speed slightly to make sure she will have room to pass
- (B) make a large course change, accompanied by the appropriate whistle signal, and slow down if necessary
- (C) answer the signal and hold course and speed
- (D) wait for another whistle signal from the other vessel

*If choice B is selected set score to 1.*

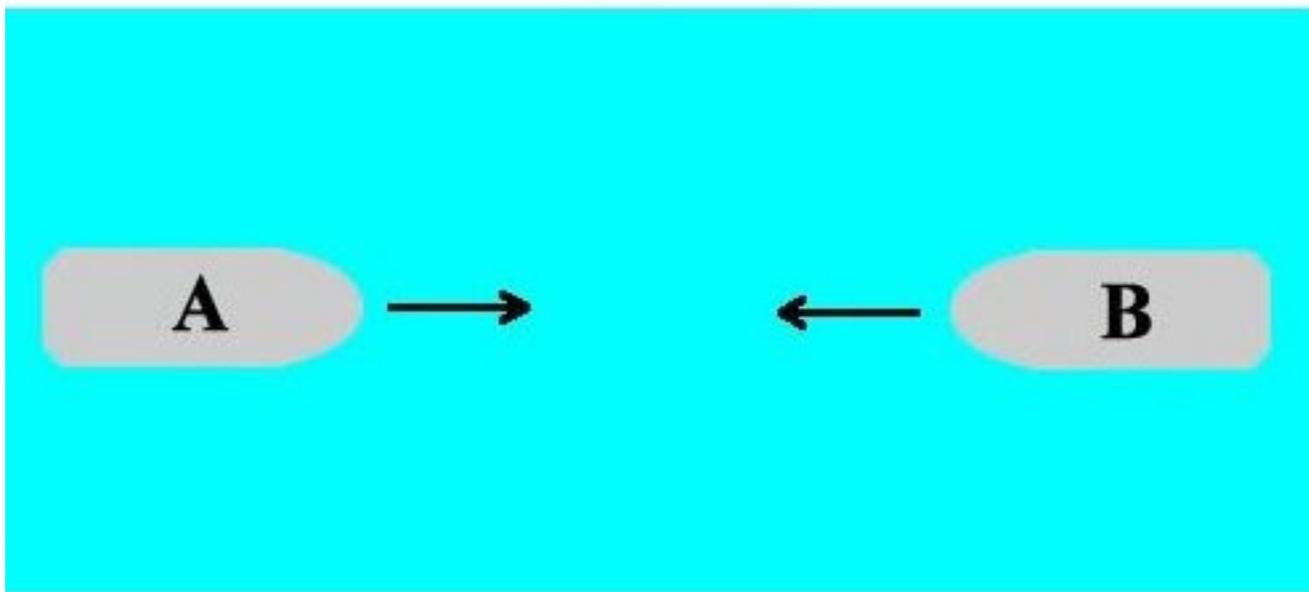
## D005RR



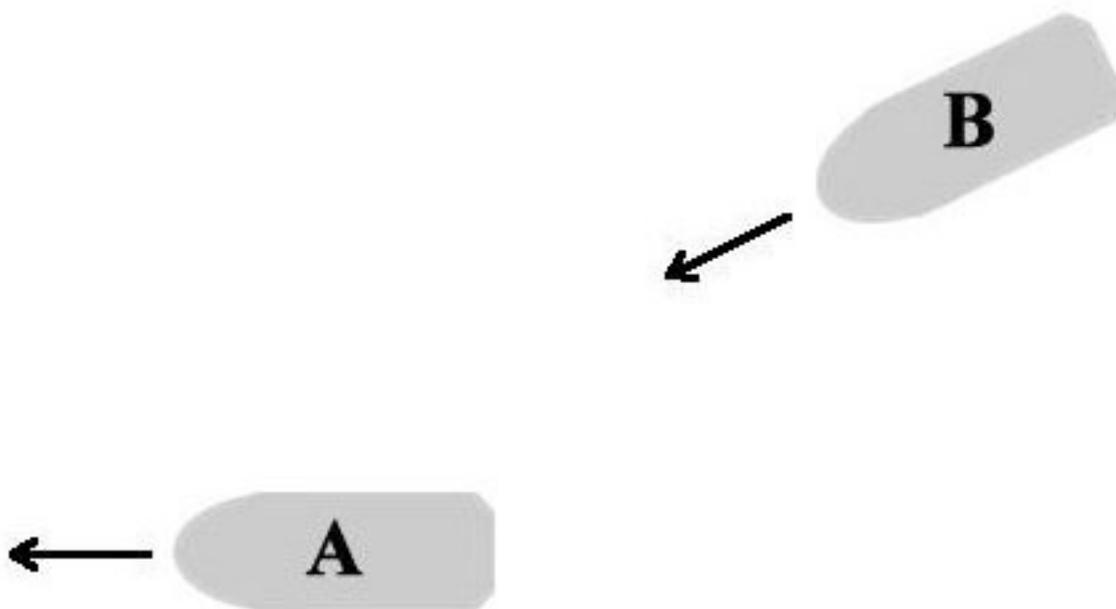
## D017RR



## D037RR



## D038RR



## D041RR

