

repealed effective on the effective date of final regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating under section 2071 of this title.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

These Rules, referred to in text, are the Inland Navigational Rules which are classified to this subchapter.

Annex I to these Rules, referred to in text, is to be established by the Secretary under section 2071 of this title.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of section 2 of Pub. L. 96-591 which enacted the Inland Navigational Rules which comprise this subchapter.

§ 2023. Power-driven vessels underway (Rule 23)

(a) Lights exhibited by power-driven vessels underway

A power-driven vessel underway shall exhibit:

- (i) a masthead light forward;
- (ii) a second masthead light abaft of and higher than the forward one; except that a vessel of less than 50 meters in length shall not be obliged to exhibit such light but may do so;
- (iii) sidelights; and
- (iv) a sternlight.

(b) Air-cushion vessels

An air-cushion vessel when operating in the nondisplacement mode shall, in addition to the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule, exhibit an all-round flashing yellow light where it can best be seen.

(c) Alternative lights for power-driven vessels of less than 12 meters in length

A power-driven vessel of less than 12 meters in length may, in lieu of the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule, exhibit an all-round white light and sidelights.

(d) Power-driven vessels when operating on Great Lakes

A power-driven vessel when operating on the Great Lakes may carry an all-round white light in lieu of the second masthead light and sternlight prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule. The light shall be carried in the position of the second masthead light and be visible at the same minimum range.

(Pub. L. 96-591, §2, Dec. 24, 1980, 94 Stat. 3424; Pub. L. 104-324, title VII, §701(3), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3932.)

REPEAL OF SECTION

Pub. L. 108-293, title III, §303(a), (c), Aug. 9, 2004, 118 Stat. 1042, provided that this section is repealed effective on the effective date of final regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating under section 2071 of this title.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of section 2 of Pub. L. 96-591 which enacted the Inland Navigational Rules which comprise this subchapter.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Par. (a)(i). Pub. L. 104-324, which directed the striking out of “except that a vessel of less than 20 me-

ters in length need not exhibit this light forward of amidships but shall exhibit it as far forward as is practicable;” after “masthead light forward”, was executed by striking out that language, which appeared after “masthead light forward;” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

§ 2024. Towing and pushing (Rule 24)

(a) Power-driven vessels when towing astern

A power-driven vessel when towing astern shall exhibit:

- (i) instead of the light prescribed either in Rule 23(a)(i) or 23(a)(ii), two masthead lights in a vertical line. When the length of the tow, measuring from the stern of the towing vessel to the after end of the tow exceeds 200 meters, three such lights in a vertical line;
- (ii) sidelights;
- (iii) a sternlight;
- (iv) a towing light in a vertical line above the sternlight; and
- (v) when the length of the tow exceeds 200 meters, a diamond shape where it can best be seen.

(b) Pushing vessel and pushed vessel rigidly connected in composite unit

When a pushing vessel and a vessel being pushed ahead are rigidly connected in a composite unit they shall be regarded as a power-driven vessel and exhibit the lights prescribed in Rule 23.

(c) Power-driven vessel when pushing ahead or towing alongside

A power-driven vessel when pushing ahead or towing alongside, except as required by paragraphs (b) and (i) of this Rule, shall exhibit:

- (i) instead of the light prescribed either in Rule 23(a)(i) or 23(a)(ii), two masthead lights in a vertical line;
- (ii) sidelights; and
- (iii) two towing lights in a vertical line.

(d) Compliance with other requirements

A power-driven vessel to which paragraphs (a) or (c) of this Rule apply shall also comply with Rule 23(a)(i) and 23(a)(ii).

(e) Vessels being towed

A vessel or object other than those referred to in paragraph (g) of this Rule being towed shall exhibit:

- (i) sidelights;
- (ii) a sternlight; and
- (iii) when the length of the tow exceeds 200 meters, a diamond shape where it can best be seen.

(f) Vessels being towed alongside or pushed in a group

Provided that any number of vessels being towed alongside or pushed in a group shall be lighted as one vessel, except as provided in paragraph (iii)—

- (i) a vessel being pushed ahead, not being part of a composite unit, shall exhibit at the forward end, sidelights and a special flashing light;
- (ii) a vessel being towed alongside shall exhibit a sternlight and at the forward end, sidelights and a special flashing light; and
- (iii) when vessels are towed alongside on both sides of the towing vessels a stern light¹

¹ So in original. Probably should be “sternlight”.

shall be exhibited on the stern of the outboard vessel on each side of the towing vessel, and a single set of sidelights as far forward and as far outboard as is practicable, and a single special flashing light.

(g) Inconspicuous, partly submerged vessel or object being towed

An inconspicuous, partly submerged vessel or object being towed shall exhibit:

- (i) if it is less than 25 meters in breadth, one all-round white light at or near each end;
- (ii) if it is 25 meters or more in breadth, four all-round white lights to mark its length and breadth;
- (iii) if it exceeds 100 meters in length, additional all-round white lights between the lights prescribed in subparagraphs (i) and (ii) so that the distance between the lights shall not exceed 100 meters: *Provided*, That any vessels or objects being towed alongside each other shall be lighted as one vessel or object;
- (iv) a diamond shape at or near the aftermost extremity of the last vessel or object being towed; and
- (v) the towing vessel may direct a searchlight in the direction of the tow to indicate its presence to an approaching vessel.

(h) Alternative lighting of vessel or object being towed

Where from any sufficient cause it is impracticable for a vessel or object being towed to exhibit the lights prescribed in paragraph (e) or (g) of this Rule, all possible measures shall be taken to light the vessel or object towed or at least to indicate the presence of the unlighted vessel or object.

(i) Western Rivers or other specified waters; exception

Notwithstanding paragraph (c), on the Western Rivers (except below the Huey P. Long Bridge on the Mississippi River) and on waters specified by the Secretary, a power-driven vessel when pushing ahead or towing alongside, except as paragraph (b) applies, shall exhibit:

- (i) sidelights; and
- (ii) two towing lights in a vertical line.

(j) Towing another vessel in distress or otherwise in need of assistance

Where from any sufficient cause it is impracticable for a vessel not normally engaged in towing operations to display the lights prescribed by paragraph (a), (c) or (i) of this Rule, such vessel shall not be required to exhibit those lights when engaged in towing another vessel in distress or otherwise in need of assistance. All possible measures shall be taken to indicate the nature of the relationship between the towing vessel and the vessel being assisted. The searchlight authorized by Rule 36 may be used to illuminate the tow.

(Pub. L. 96-591, §2, Dec. 24, 1980, 94 Stat. 3425; Pub. L. 98-557, §16(b)(1), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2866; Pub. L. 104-324, title VII, §701(4), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3932.)

REPEAL OF SECTION

Pub. L. 108-293, title III, §303(a), (c), Aug. 9, 2004, 118 Stat. 1042, provided that this section is

repealed effective on the effective date of final regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating under section 2071 of this title.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Rule 23, referred to in pars. (a)(i), (b), (c)(i), and (d), is classified to section 2023 of this title.

Rule 36, referred to in par. (j), is classified to section 2036 of this title.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of section 2 of Pub. L. 96-591 which enacted the Inland Navigational Rules which comprise this subchapter.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Par. (f). Pub. L. 104-324 amended par. (f) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (f) read as follows: “Provided that any number of vessels being towed alongside or pushed in a group shall be lighted as one vessel:

“(i) a vessel being pushed ahead, not being part of a composite unit, shall exhibit at the forward end sidelights, and a special flashing light; and

“(ii) a vessel being towed alongside shall exhibit a sternlight and at the forward end sidelights.”

1984—Par. (i). Pub. L. 98-557 inserted exception for below the Long Bridge on the Mississippi River.

§ 2025. Sailing vessels underway and vessels under oars (Rule 25)

(a) Sailing vessels underway

A sailing vessel underway shall exhibit:

- (i) sidelights; and
- (ii) a sternlight.

(b) Sailing vessels of less than 20 meters in length

In a sailing vessel of less than 20 meters in length the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule may be combined in one lantern carried at or near the top of the mast where it can best be seen.

(c) Additional lights

A sailing vessel underway may, in addition to the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule, exhibit at or near the top of the mast, where they can best be seen, two all-round lights in a vertical line, the upper being red and the lower green, but these lights shall not be exhibited in conjunction with the combined lantern permitted by paragraph (b) of this Rule.

(d) Sailing vessels of less than 7 meters in length; vessels under oars

(i) A sailing vessel of less than 7 meters in length shall, if practicable, exhibit the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) or (b) of this Rule, but if she does not, she shall have ready at hand an electric torch or lighted lantern showing a white light which shall be exhibited in sufficient time to prevent collision.

(ii) A vessel under oars may exhibit the lights prescribed in this Rule for sailing vessels, but if she does not, she shall have ready at hand an electric torch or lighted lantern showing a white light which shall be exhibited in sufficient time to prevent collision.

(e) Vessels proceeding under sail

A vessel proceeding under sail when also being propelled by machinery shall exhibit forward where it can best be seen a conical shape, apex