



Marine Notice No. 05 of 2021

Notice to all Masters, Owners and Users of Pleasure and Recreational Craft.

Prevention of Collisions at Sea

In response to the Marine Casualty Investigation Board (MCIB) recommendation in the recent report published by the MCIB into the collision between a Tanker 'Varkan Ege' and a Sailing Vessel 'Medi Mode', the Department of Transport would like to remind all seafarers of their obligations to comply with the International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS), as also outlined in Section 1.2.1 and [Appendix 1](#) of the Code of Practice for the Safe Operation of Recreational Craft. The full report may be obtained from the website of the Marine Casualty Investigation Board at www.mcib.ie.

As advised in [Marine Notice 06 of 2013](#), the International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea are the basic "rules of the road" for all seafarers in charge of vessels on the high seas irrespective of type of vessel(s) concerned and are "fully applicable to all vessels on the high seas and in all waters connected therewith navigable by seagoing vessels".

COLREGS are implemented in Irish law by the Merchant Shipping (Collision Regulations) (Ships and Water Craft on the Water) Order 2012 ([S.I. No. 507 of 2012](#)) and the Signals of Distress (Ships) Rules 2012 ([S.I. No. 170 of 2012](#)). In particular, Rules 16 and 17 of [S.I. No. 507 of 2012](#) give directions on actions by give-way and stand-on vessels to avoid collision, while Part D sets out requirements for Sounds and Light Signals.

Attention is also drawn to [Chapter 2](#) of the Code of Practice for the Safe Operation of Recreational Craft which deals with Sail and Motorboats. Sail and Motorboat operators/owners are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the contents of the Code of Practice and to comply with the safety advice and recommendations of the Code.

Part A of the Code of Practice outlines the legislative requirements that apply to all recreational craft or specific types or size of craft. Owners and operators must comply with the requirements appropriate to their craft. Part B contains recommended guidelines and best practice for the safe operation of a range of recreational craft including Sail and Motorboats.

Chapter 2.1 of the Code recommends that persons participating in Sailboat and Motorboat activities undertake appropriate training. A number of training schemes and approved

courses are available and information can be obtained directly from course providers. The list of providers and their contact details can be found in [Appendices 9 and 10](#) of the Code.

The Code of Practice is a free document and hardcopies can be obtained on request, in both English and Irish, from the Maritime Safety Policy Division of the Department at email MarineLeisureSafety@transport.gov.ie. The Code is also available to view or download from www.transport.gov.ie.

All recreational craft users are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Code of Practice and to heed the safety advice and recommendations.

Note: Marine Notices are issued purely for maritime safety and navigation reasons and should not be construed as conferring rights or granting permissions.

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