

H.M. Vessels are constantly engaged, both singly and in pairs, in sweeping operations off the coasts of the United Kingdom, and whilst so engaged they are hampered to a very considerable extent in their manœuvring powers.

With a view to indicating the nature of the work on which they are engaged, these vessels will show the signals hereinafter mentioned, and for the public safety all other vessels, whether steamers or sailing craft, must keep out of the way of vessels flying these signals and not approach them inside the distances mentioned herein, specially remembering that it is dangerous to pass inside these distances or between the vessels of a pair, as the vessels may have mines trailing in their sweeps and also on account of the danger caused to traffic if mine-sweepers have to slip their sweeps to get out of the way of vessels.

1. SIGNALS THAT WILL BE SHOWN BY DAY.

(a) By vessels working singly:

A black ball at the foremast head, and a similar ball at each yardarm or where they can best be seen.

Vessels showing this signal are not to be approached nearer than 300 yards.

(b) By vessels working in pairs:

A black ball at the foremast head, and a similar ball at the yard-arm or where it can best be seen, on that side on which it is dangerous to pass.

Vessels are not to pass within a distance of 400 yards astern of a single pair of sweepers, or when more than one pair are working in company within a distance of 400 yards astern of rear pair. They are on no account to attempt to pass between pairs working in company.

2. SIGNALS THAT WILL BE SHOWN BY NIGHT.

As for day, except that all round green lights will be used in place of the black balls.

CAUTION.

Part IV. of this Admiralty Notice to Mariners is issued under the provisions of the Defence of the Realm (Consolidation) Regulations, 1914, and failure to comply strictly with the directions contained in it will constitute an offence against those Regulations.

Any person found guilty of such an offence is liable to severe penalties both of imprisonment and fine.

Any person aiding or abetting the commission of such an offence is himself guilty of an offence against the Regulations.

Attention is also drawn to the fact that any infringement of the directions contained in Part IV. of this Admiralty Notice to Mariners is liable to result in the detention of the ship or vessel.

Note.—This Notice is a revision of Notice No. 1 of 1919.

(Notice No. 1520 of 1919.)

Authority.—The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. (H. 6624/19.)

By Command of their Lordships,

F. C. LEARMONTH,
Hydrographer of the Navy.

Admiralty, London,
8th September 1919.

ADMIRALTY NOTICE TO MARINERS.

No. 1529 of the year 1919.

NAMES OF VESSELS TO BE DISPLAYED ON ENTERING CERTAIN PORTS.

Former Notices.—No. 309 of 1918; hereby cancelled. No. 526 of 1918.

Every merchant vessel entering a French port, or on Government service proceeding to Archangel and the Black Sea, shall display her name painted in white letters on a black board on the side on which she is approaching the Examination steamer and at such other times, and in such manner as may be directed by the Port Authorities.

The name shall be painted in block letters of such size as to enable the name to be read by the naked eye at a distance of twice the vessel's own length in ordinary clear weather (visibility = 0 in the scale), whether by day or under search-light beam at night.

Vessels of under 500 tons gross shall display one such board placed over the side in the vicinity of the vessel's bridge.

Vessels of 500 tons gross and over shall display two such boards, one in the vicinity of the vessel's bridge, and in the other in the next most conspicuous position over the side.

The above order does not relieve a vessel of the necessity of complying with the Board of Trade requirements as to the proper equipment of signal flags.

The order relating to vessels entering ports in the United Kingdom, published in the former Notice No. 309 of 1918, is no longer in force.

(Notice No. 1529 of 1919.)

Authority.—The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. (H. 5797/19.)

By Command of their Lordships,

F. C. LEARMONTH,
Hydrographer of the Navy.

Admiralty, London,
9th September 1919.