

Marine Notice No. 06 of 2013

To all Ship Owners/Operators, Ship Masters, Ships Officers, Skippers, 2nd Hands, Fishermen, Yachtsmen, Seafarers, Nautical Training Establishments and Pleasure Craft Users.

International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport wishes to remind all seafarers of their obligations at sea to fully comply at all times by day and night with the International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS). The COLREGS 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”.

New national regulations were made in 2012 and the International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea are now implemented in Irish law by the Statutory Instrument, *Merchant Shipping (Collision Regulations) (Ships and Water Craft on the Water) Order 2012* ([S.I. No. 507 of 2012](#)). This Order revoked and replaced the previous COLREG Orders, namely S.I. Nos. 29 of 1984, 36 of 1990, 287 of 1993 and 47 of 2005.

In addition, new national regulations were also made in 2012 for signals of distress. The *Signals of Distress (Ships) Rules 2012* ([S.I. No. 170 of 2012](#)) update the provisions for signals of distress and their use in line with Annex IV of COLREGS. These 2012 Rules revoke and replace the previous Rules, namely S.I. No. 234 of 1977.

These Statutory Instruments may be purchased by mail order from Government Publications, Office of Public Works, 52 St. Stephen’s Green, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6476834 or 1890-213434. Also available on the internet at: www.irishstatutebook.ie.

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