





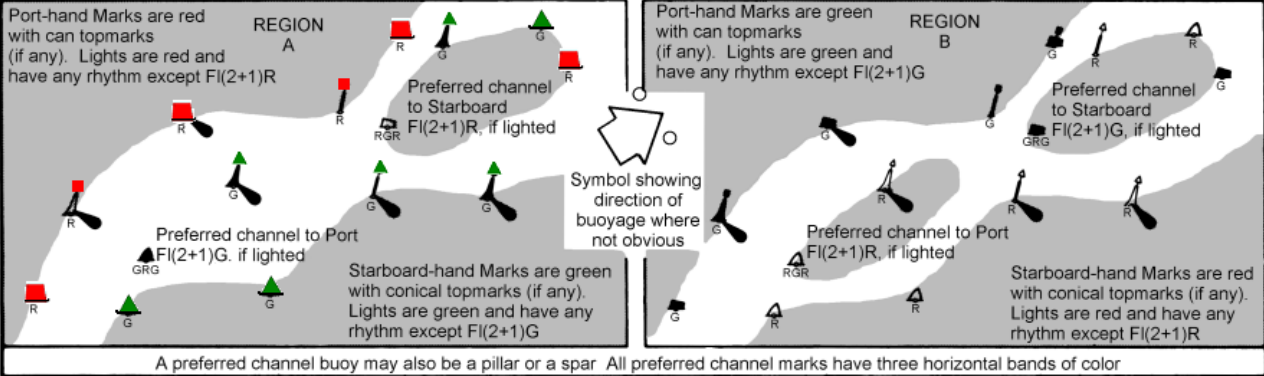


Buoys and Beacons IALA* Buoyage System

Where in force, the IALA System applies to all fixed and floating marks and occasionally lighthouses, sector lights, range marks, lightships and LANBY's (large automatic navigational buoys).

The standard buoy shapes are cylindrical (can) , conical , spherical , pillar (including high focal plane) , and spar , but variations may occur, for example lightfloats . In the illustrations below, only the standard buoy shapes are used. In the case of fixed beacons (lighted or unlighted), only the shape of the topmark is of navigational significance.

Lateral Marks (used in conjunction with a conventional direction of buoyage) are generally for well-defined channels. There are two international Buoyage Regions-A and B-where Lateral marks differ.

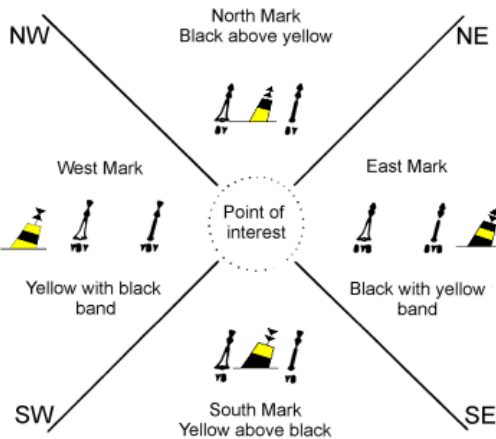


All marks other than Lateral Marks are the same in REGIONS A and B

UNLIGHTED MARKS

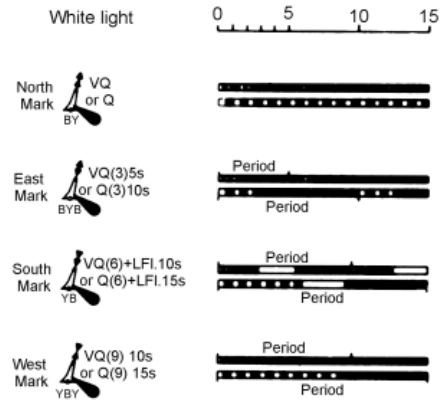
Cardinal Marks indicating navigable water to the named side of the marks

Topmark 2 black cones



LIGHTED MARKS

Time (seconds)



* The same abbreviations are used for lights on spar buoys and beacons. The periods, 5s, 10s and 15s, may not always be charted.

Isolated Danger Marks, stationed over dangers with navigable water around them.

Body black with red band (s)
Topmark: 2 black balls



Fl(2)

White light

Safe Water Marks, such as mid-channel and landfall marks.

Body red and white stripes
Topmark (if any): red ball



Iso, or Oc, or L Fl.10s, or Mo (A)

White light



Special Marks, not primarily to assist navigation but to indicate special features.

Body (shape optional): yellow
Topmark (if any) yellow X



Fl. Y etc

Yellow light

BEACONS with IALA System topmarks are charted by upright symbols. eg.  (minor beacon) or, on smaller-scale charts: 

Beacon towers are charted:  etc (occasionally lighted)

RADAR REFLECTORS on buoys and beacons are not generally charted.

COLOR ABBREVIATIONS under symbols, especially those of spar buoys, may be omitted, or may be at variance with symbols shown above.

LIGHTFLOATS: The IALA System is not usually applied to large lightfloats (replacing manned lightships) but may be applied to smaller lightfloats.

* IALA is an abbreviation of International Association of Lighthouse Authorities