

## 10.12 GENERAL REMARKS AND SUMMARY

### REGION “A”

1. The IALA Buoyage System ‘A’ does not apply to lighthouses, light-vessels, leading lights, and light towers.
2. Radar reflectors shall, whenever practicable, be combined within the topmark.
3. Topmarks are compulsory on Cardinal and Isolated Danger marks; they are not compulsory but strongly recommended on Lateral, Safe Water, and Special marks.
4. To identify a buoy or a mark by day, its colour should be observed first, then its topmark and finally its shape.  
Every colour has its own significance:
  - a. green: starboard Lateral marks;
  - b. red: port Lateral marks;
  - c. green and a red band or red and a green band: preferred channel marks (seldom used in Region “A”).
  - d. black and yellow: Cardinal marks;
  - e. black and red horizontal bands: Isolated Danger marks;
  - f. red and white vertical bands: Safe Water marks;
  - g. yellow: Special marks.
  - h. Blue and yellow vertical bands: New Danger marks
5. For identification by night, buoys or marks are fitted with lights having specific colours and characteristics:
  - a. red and green light, any rhythm: Lateral marks;
  - b. red and green light, composite group flashing (2+1): Preferred channel marks.
  - c. red and green, quick flashing or very quick flashing light (Q or VQ) : Lateral buoyage to mark a danger;
  - d. white light, quick flashing or very quick flashing light (0), (3), (6), (9) (Q or VQ) : Cardinal marks
  - e. white light showing a group of two flashes (FI (2)) : Isolated Danger marks;
  - f. white light, isophase (Iso), occulting (Oc), or long flashing (L FI) : Safe Water marks;
  - g. yellow light, flashing (FI), group flashing (FI (3)), and Morse Code (Mo): Special marks.
  - h. alternating blue and yellow flashing light: New Danger mark. It may carry a racon coded “D” or a AIS transponder.

Figures 10.217 and 10.218 show examples of channel obstruction and special feature marks in accordance with IALA Buoyage System in Region “A”.

### REMARKS

In Region “A”:

1. Starboard marks are green and conical.
2. Port marks are red and can shaped.
3. Preferred channels are generally indicated by Cardinal marks and seldom by modified lateral marks.

Before he takes over his watch, the officer of the watch (OOW) must locate on the chart or ECDIS the buoys or any hazard he will encounter during his watch. It is very bad practice to first detect a buoy or any other object at sea and than try to locate it on the chart.

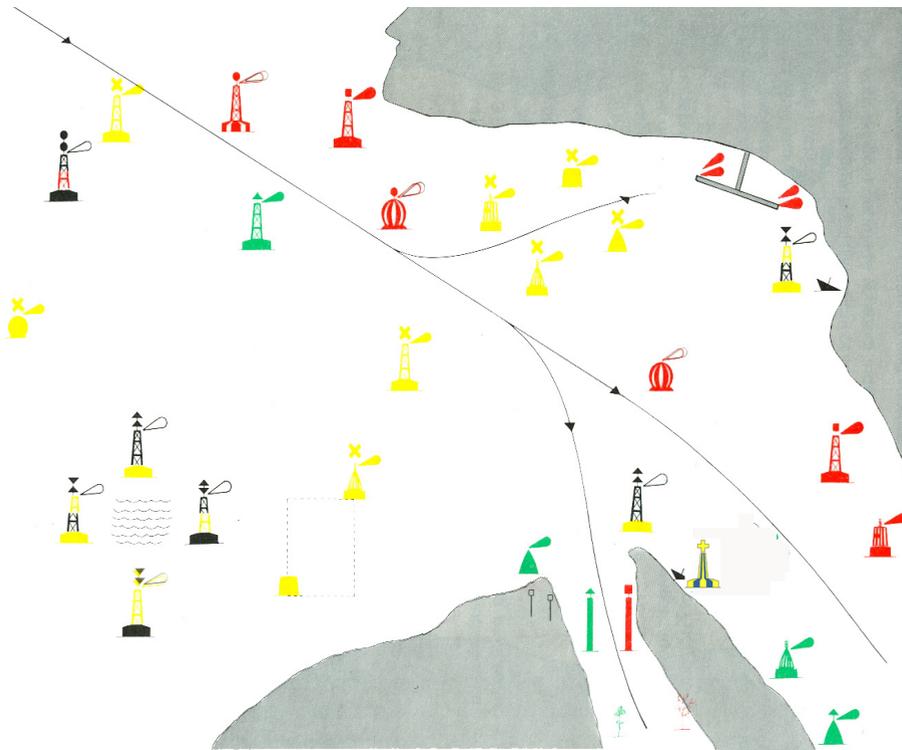


Figure 10.217 - IALA Buoyage in Region “A”



## REGION “B”

1. The IALA Buoyage System ‘B’ does not apply to lighthouses, light-vessels, leading lights, and light towers.
2. Radar reflectors shall, whenever practicable, be combined within the topmark.
3. Topmarks are compulsory on Cardinal and Isolated Danger marks; they are not compulsory but strongly recommended on Lateral, Safe Water, and Special marks. In Region “B” however, topmarks are seldom used.
4. To identify a buoy or a mark by day, its colour should be observed first, then its topmark and finally its shape.  
Every colour has its own significance:
  - a. green: port Lateral marks;
  - b. red: starboard Lateral marks;
  - c. green and a red band or red and a green band: preferred channel marks.
  - d. black and yellow: Cardinal marks (seldom used in Region “B”);
  - e. black and red horizontal bands: Isolated Danger marks;
  - f. red and white vertical bands: Safe Water marks;
  - g. yellow: Special marks.
  - h. blue and yellow vertical bands: New Danger marks
5. For identification by night, buoys or marks are fitted with lights having specific colours and characteristics:
  - a. red and green light, any rhythm: Lateral marks;
  - b. red and green light, composite group flashing (2+1): Preferred channel marks.
  - c. red and green, quick flashing or very quick flashing light (Q or VQ) : Lateral buoyage to mark a danger;
  - d. white light, quick flashing or very quick flashing light (0), (3), (6), (9) (Q or VQ) : Cardinal marks (seldom used).
  - e. white light showing a group of two flashes (FI (2)) : Isolated Danger marks;
  - f. white light, isophase (Iso), occulting (Oc), or long flashing (L FI) : Safe Water marks;
  - g. yellow light, flashing (FI), group flashing (FI (3)), and Morse Code (Mo): Special marks.
  - h. alternating blue and yellow flashing light: New Danger mark. It may carry a racon coded “D” or a AIS transponder.



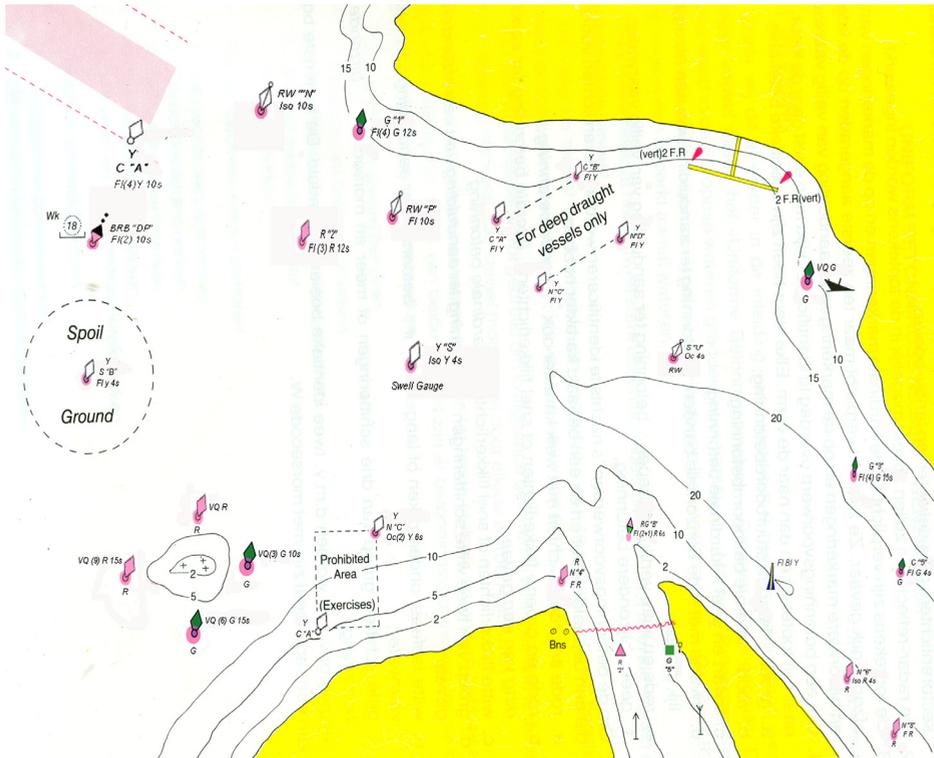


Figure 10.220 - IALA Buoyage System in Region "B"

#### NOTE

On the actual chart, the "New Danger mark" will not be indicated. Once charted, this danger will no longer be a new danger.