

Part D – Sound and Light signals

Rule 32 - Definitions

- (a) The word "whistle" means any sound signalling appliance capable of producing the prescribed blasts and which complies with the specifications in Annex III to these Regulations.
- (b) The term "short blast" means a blast of about one second's duration.
- (c) The term "prolonged blast" means a blast from four to six seconds' duration.

Rule 32 - Definitions

Whistle

Rule 32 (a)



Rule 32 - Definitions

Whistle

Rule 32 (a)

Length of vessel in meters	1/3rd-octave band Audibility in metres level at 1 metre range in in dB referred to 2×10^{-5} N/m ²	Audibility range in nautical miles
200 or more	143	2
75 but less than 200	138	1.5
20 but less than 75	130	1
Less than 20	120	0.5

The range at which a whistle may be heard on its forward axis
(See Annex III, Technical details of sound signal appliances.

Rule 32 - Definitions

Short and prolonged blast Rule 32 (b) (c)

It is very important to get used to the duration of one second and the duration of four to six seconds. Signal duration times are too often underestimated, i.e. short blasts are often poorly heard and long blasts are mistaken for short ones.

This may cause confusion, reduce the efficiency of the signals and so adversely affect the safety of navigation.

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Remarks

In practice the range at which a whistle may be heard is extremely variable and depends critically on weather conditions

Under conditions of strong wind or high ambient noise level at the listening post the range may be much reduced.

The range in any direction will be at least half the range on the forward axis.