

Sectors Illuminated by Sidelights

Amended Guidance

Guidance for Safety Equipment

Reason for Amendment

COLREG specifies requirements related to the illumination areas of sidelights and the ability of such lights to maintain their minimum required intensities within such areas.

Overall increases in ship length in recent years has led to increased reports of ships whose sidelights are not visible at the angles specified by COLREG because they are being blocked by main decks or forecastles, etc.. To deal with this problem, a draft unified interpretation was submitted to the 4th session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR4) for discussion and the sub-committee agreed to specify the minimum distance at which the lights are to be visible in such cases.

The aforementioned draft unified interpretation was subsequently approved at the 98th session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC98) as MSC.1/Circ.1577, and it applies to all ships for which the date of contract for construction is on or after 1 July 2019.

However, in order to apply this MSC.1/Circ.1577 at an earlier date, IACS had adopted an IACS Unified Interpretation (UI) which includes the same requirements.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended in accordance with the proposed IACS UI.

Outline of Amendment

- (1) Specified the minimum distance at which sidelights are to be visible in cases where such lights are not fully visible due to main decks or forecastles, etc.
- (2) Specified the angles for the horizontal sectors of sidelights in the forward direction.

Amended Requirements

Guidance for Safety Equipment 3.1.1