

Navigation lights

By law, navigating lights must be shown on boats operating:

- between sunset and sunrise
- in restricted visibility.

Navigation lights indicate:

- the size of the boat
- the angle where you see them
- the direction the boat is travelling
- if the boat is anchored.



Minimum required lights (see diagrams overleaf)

Sailboats underway

- Sailboats less than 7m and vessels under oars must have a torch or lantern showing a white light ready to display in time to prevent a collision.
- Sailboats less than 20m in length may combine sidelights and stern lights in a single lantern carried at the top of the mast.
- Sailboats 7m or more in length must show sidelights and stern lights. In addition to sidelights they may show two all-round lights in a vertical line (red over green) that may be shown at the top of the mast, but not when a combined lantern is used.

Powered boats underway

- Powered boats less than 7m in length and whose maximum speed does not exceed 7 knots, may show an all-round white light instead of sidelights. If practical, these boats should also show sidelights.
- Powered boats must show sidelights and either an all-round white light or a stern and masthead light. Sailboats under engine power are considered to be powered boats, and must show the same lights as a powered boat. Personal watercraft are also powered boats.

Note – a boat is “underway” when it is not at anchor, made fast to shore or aground (this includes drifting). Navigation lights should be fitted by the manufacturer or an authorised person.

Personal watercraft (PWC)

- All PWCs operating at night or in restricted visibility must show navigation lights.
- Navigation lights must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. A mast for an all-round white light on a PWC should be installed in such a way it will not pose an impaling hazard.
- The addition of any aftermarket products to a PWC must be in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and must not compromise the watertight integrity of the hull.

Boats moored or at anchor

All boats moored or at anchor must show an all-round white light.

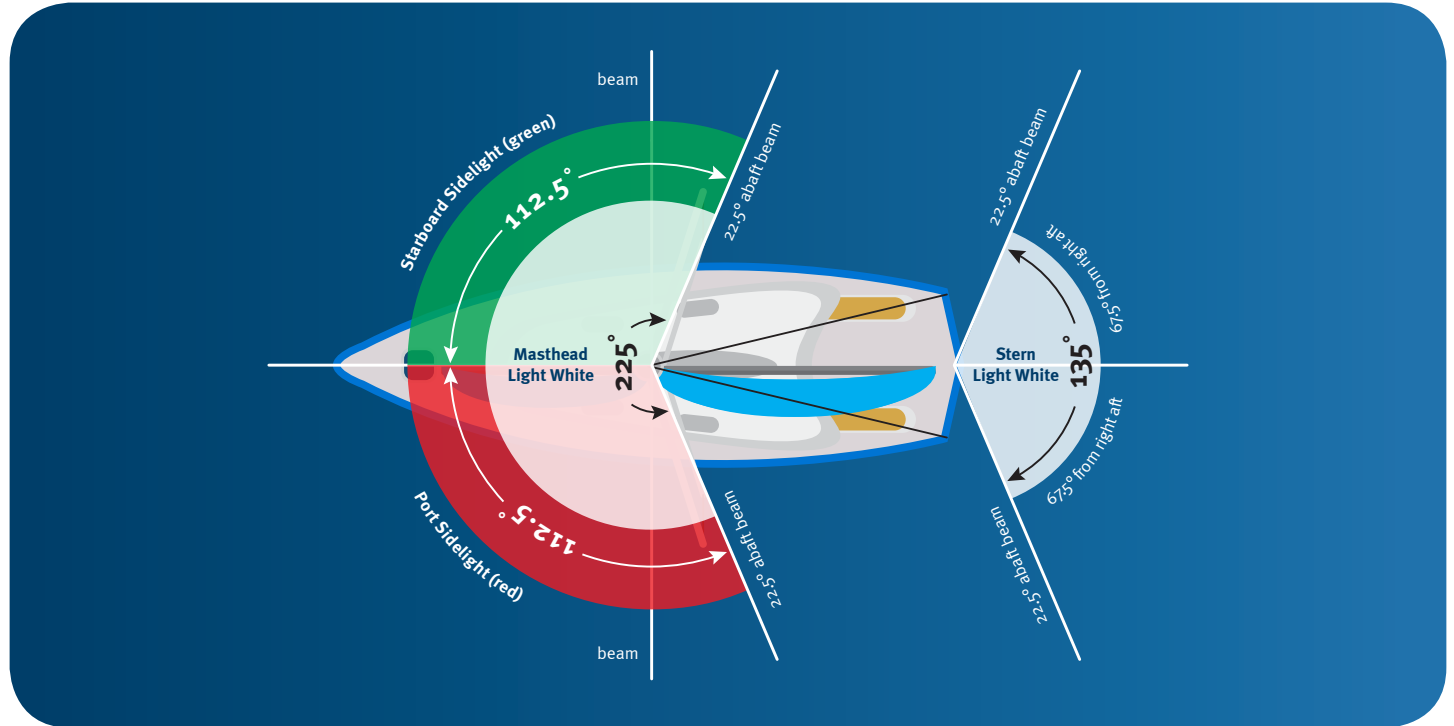
Where can I get more information?

Visit your local Maritime Safety Queensland office or our website www.msq.qld.gov.au



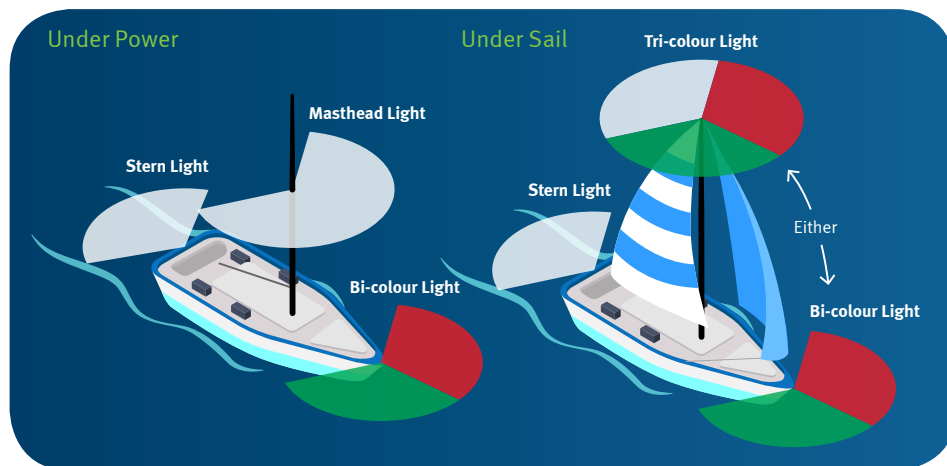
Visibility arcs for navigation lights

Navigation lights

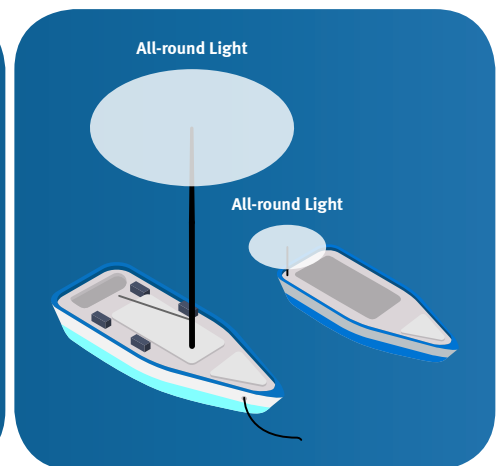


Standard configurations of vessel navigation lights

Sailboats



Boats moored or at anchor



Powerboats

