



IALA Buoyage System Region A

Lateral marks

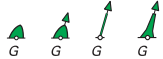
Port hand

All red
Topmark (if any): can
Light (if any): red



Starboard hand
All green

Topmark (if any): cone
Light (if any): green



Preferred channel to port

Green/red/green
Light (if any): Fl(2+1)G



Preferred channel to starboard

Red/green/red
Light (if any): Fl(2+1)R



The direction of buoyage in estuaries and port approaches is generally from seaward.

In other areas around the British Isles the general direction of buoyage runs:

Northward along the W coasts and in the Irish Sea
Eastward through the English Channel
Northward through the North Sea



Where there is doubt buoyage direction is shown thus:

Isolated danger marks

(stationed over a danger with navigable water around)

Black with red band
Topmark: 2 black balls
Light (if any): Fl(2) (white)



Special mark

Body shape optional, yellow
Topmark (if any): Yellow X
Light (if any): Fl.Y etc



Safe water marks

(mid-channel and landfall)
Red and white vertical stripes
Topmark (if any): red ball
Light (if any): Iso, Oc, LFl.10s or Mo(A) (white)



Emergency wreck marking buoy

Yellow and blue vertical stripes
Topmark: upright yellow cross



Cardinal marks

N mark
Light (if any): VQ or Q

W mark
Light (if any): VQ(9)10s or Q(9)15s

E mark
Light (if any): VQ(3)5s or Q(3)10s

S mark
Light (if any): VQ(6)+LFl.10s or Q(6)+LFl.15s

Small craft symbols

The following symbols are used on larger scale charts and plans

- Visitors' moorings
- Visitors' berths
- Yacht marina
- Harbour with yacht berths
- Fishing harbour
- Public landing
- Slipway for small craft
- Water tap
- Fuel
- Public telephone
- Customs
- Public house, inn, bar
- Restaurant
- Yacht or sailing club
- Toilets
- Public car park
- Launderette
- Caravan site
- Campsite
- Nature reserve
- Harbour master
- Post office
- Building
- Airport
- Flagpole/flagstaff
- Castle/Fort
- Hospital
- Notice board
- Wooded area
- Beacon (various topmarks)
- Mooring buoy
- Crane
- Stake, pole

Abbreviations

Aero	aeronautical light
Aero RC	aeronautical radiobeacon
AIS	Automatic Identification System
Al	alternating
B	black
Bldg	building
Bn	beacon
Bu	blue
CG	coastguard station
Chy	chimney
Const	construction
dest	destroyed
dis	disused
Dir	directional
Dk	dock
Dn	dolphin
dr	dries
DW	deep water
ED	existence doubtful
Exting	extinguished
F	fixed
Fl.	flashing
FS	flagstaff
Ft	fort
G	green
Ho	house
Hosp	hospital
Hbr	harbour
I.	island, islet
Intens	intensified
Iso	isophase
L.	lake, loch, lough
LANBY	Large Automatic Navigational Buoy
LB	lifeboat station
Ldg	leading
LFl	long-flashing
(lit)	floodlit
Lt	light
Lndg	landing for boats
Lt Ho	lighthouse
Mag Var	magnetic variation
M	nautical mile(s)
m	metre(s)
min	minute(s)
Mo	Morse code
Mon	monument
MR	Marine Reserve
Obscd	obscured
Obstn	obstruction
Oc	occulting
occas	occasional
ODAS	data collection buoy (Ocean Data Acquisition System)
Or	orange
Prohib	prohibited
Pt	point
Pyl	pylon
Q	quick-flashing
R	red
R.	river
Racon	radar transponder beacon
Radome	radar dome
Rep	reported
Rk	rock
RoRo	roll-on roll-off ferry terminal
ru	ruin
s	second(s)
SC	sailing club
Sp	spire
SS	signal station
Sta	station
Tr	tower
TSS	Traffic Separation Scheme
Vi	violet
vis	visible
VQ	very quick-flashing
W	white
Whis	whistle
Wk	wreck
Y	yellow
YC	yacht club

Seabed characteristics

- S** Sand
- M** Mud
- Oz** Ooze
- Cy** Clay
- G** Gravel
- Co** Coral
- Sn** Shingle
- P** Pebbles
- St** Stones
- R** Rock
- Ck** Chalk
- Sh** Shells
- Wd** Weed
- Qz** Quartz
- f** fine
- m** medium
- c** coarse
- h** hard
- sm** small
- so** soft
- bk** broken



Marine Chart Symbols app (available on iOS)

Based on the International Hydrographic Office publication Int 1. Covers more than 800 symbols and abbreviations.

For the latest chart corrections
www.imray.com

Any symbol shown with caption in bold type denotes the object is conspicuous

Coastline, surveyed		Unsurveyed
Steep coast	Cliffs	
Coastal hillocks	Sandy shore	
Stony shore, Shingly shore		Stones
Sand hills	Sand dunes	
Intermittent/seasonal river		
Lakes	Salt pans	
Marsh, Swamp, Saltmarsh		
Mangrove		
Areas of sand, mud, stone and gravel		
Rocky area		
Coral reef		
Opening bridge with vertical clearance		
Power transmission line with pylons		
Tower	Water Tower	Flare stack
Chimney	Monument	Windmill
Precautionary Area		

Wind turbine	Radio/TV mast	Radio/TV tower
Dish aerial	Church with Spire	Mosque
		Tanks
Any symbol with a caption in bold type denotes the object is conspicuous		
Seawall (large scale charts)		
Seawall (small scale charts)		
Breakwater		
Breakwater-loose boulders		
Training wall		
Dolphins		
Groyne		
Mole with berthing		
Flood tide stream	Ebb tide stream	
Sandwaves	Overfalls, races	
Eddies	Position for tidal stream data	
Dangerline	PD Position doubtful	
	PA Position approximate	
Rock which does not cover at Height Datum (HD)		
Rock which covers/uncovers		
Rock awash at level of Chart Datum (CD)		

Dangerous underwater rock, depth unknown		
Dangerous rock of known depth		
Breakers	18 Breaks 19 Breaking Shoal	
Wreck which does not cover (ht above HD)	Wreck which covers/uncovers (ht above CD)	
Submerged wreck, depth known	Wreck showing part of hull/superstructure at level CD	
Wreck, masts only visible at CD		
Dangerous wreck of known depth	Dangerous wreck	
Wave farm	Non-dangerous wreck	
Foul ground	Obstructions, depth known	
	Fish haven	
Ferry	Wind farm	
Platform	Well	
Submarine cable	Submarine power cable	
Pipelines		
Recommended anchorage	Fishing prohibited	
Anchorage area	Anchoring prohibited	
Superbuoy (e.g. LANBY, ODAS)	Lifeboat	
Leading lights		
Floodlit, floodlighting of a structure	Coast radar stn	Radar reflector
	Racon(Z)10M Racon, with morse identification & range	
Automatic Identification System transmitter		
Recommended direction of traffic flow	Established direction of traffic flow	