



COMDTINST 16672.2  
29 SEP 2014

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 16672.2

Subj: PROMULGATION OF THE NAVIGATION RULES AND REGULATIONS  
HANDBOOK

1. PURPOSE. This Instruction announces the publication of the Navigation Rules and Regulations Handbook, formerly published as the Navigation Rules, International – Inland, COMDTINST M16672.2 (series).
2. ACTION. Area and District Commanders, Commander of Shore Forces Logistics Center, and unit commanding officers shall ensure implementation and compliance with this Instruction. Internet release is authorized.
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. Navigation Rules, International – Inland, COMDTINST M16672.2D is cancelled.
4. DISCUSSION.
  - a. This Instruction announces the publication of the Navigation Rules and Regulations Handbook, formerly Navigation Rules, International – Inland, COMDTINST M16672.2 (series). The Handbook, in its new format, contains the International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS) as well as the Inland Navigation Rules, which were enacted by law on December 24, 1980 and became effective for all Inland Waters except the Great Lakes on December 24, 1981. The Inland Rules became effective on the Great Lakes on March 1, 1983. Some differences do remain between the International and Inland Rules. The side-by-side presentation of the Rules in this publication allows mariners to determine those differences with ease.
  - b. The handbook contains additional, relevant regulations for waterway users which include the COLREGS Demarcation Lines, Bridge to Bridge Radiotelephone

DISTRIBUTION – SDL No.165

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B		x	x		x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x			x				x				
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NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

Regulations, Vessel Traffic Service Regulations and other pertinent regulations and laws.

5. DISCLAIMER. This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. This Instruction is intended to provide operational guidance for Coast Guard personnel and is not intended to nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard. The Handbook referenced, however, refers to laws and regulations that are legally binding. All users of the waterways, US Coast Guard and civilian mariners, must follow the laws and regulations reprinted in the Handbook and compiled for easy reference.
6. MAJOR CHANGES.
  - a. Since the last publication of Navigation Rules, International – Inland, COMDTINST M16672.2 (series), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has adopted nine amendments to the COLREGS which entered into force on November 29, 2003. A single amendment was adopted which updated the Distress signals and entered into force on December 1, 2009. These amendments are incorporated in the International Rules section of the Handbook.
  - b. The Coast Guard was authorized to transfer the Inland Navigation Rules from United States Code (U.S.C.) to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and did so in May 2010. Lastly, the Coast Guard published a Final Rule in the Federal Register in June 2014 which adopted the 2003 and 2009 COLREGS amendments as well as incorporated recommendations made by the Navigation Safety Advisory Council (NAVSAC). This publication includes all revisions of the International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS) and the Inland Navigation Rules through July 7, 2014.
7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT. This handbook provides the Coast Guard with readily available references and information which would otherwise only be available in the Code of Federal Regulations or United States Code. The format and name change are minor and not expected to impact mission performance.
8. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.
  - a. The development of this directive and the general policies contained within it have been thoroughly reviewed by the originating office and are categorically excluded under current USCG categorical exclusion (CE) #33(i) from further environmental analysis, in accordance with Section 2.B.2 and Figure 2-1 of the National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts, COMDTINST M16475.1 (series).
  - b. This directive will not have any of the following: significant cumulative impacts on the human environment; substantial controversy or substantial change to existing environmental considerations; or inconsistencies with any Federal, State or local laws or administrative determinations relating to the environment. All future specific actions resulting from the general policies in this Instruction must be individually evaluated for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Policy NEPA regulations at 40 CFR

Parts 1500-1508, DHS and Coast Guard NEPA policy, and compliance with all other environmental mandates.

9. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Instruction nor the referenced Handbook. An electronic version of the Instruction will be located on the following Commandant (CG-612) websites. Internet: <http://www.uscg.mil/directives/>, and CGPortal: <https://cgportal2.uscg.mil/library/directives/SitePages/Home.aspx>. A copy of the Instruction as well as the referenced Handbook is also published on the Navigation Center's website which includes a corrected copy available for download at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=navRuleChanges>.
10. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. This Instruction has been thoroughly reviewed during the directives clearance process, and it has been determined there are no further records scheduling requirements, in accordance with Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. 3101 et seq, NARA requirements, and Information and Life Cycle Management Manual, COMDTINST M5212.12 (series). This policy does not have any significant or substantial change to existing records management requirements.
11. FORMS/REPORTS. None.
12. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. Notices of changes to the Navigation Rules and Regulations are published in the Federal Register, Local Notice to Mariners, and Weekly Notice to Mariners. Subject matter experts within the Office of Navigation Systems (CG-NAV) may be contacted via email at [cgnav@uscg.mil](mailto:cgnav@uscg.mil) with questions or recommended changes.



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