

U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam  
Limited Operator Uninspected Passenger Vessels  
Q301 Rules of the Road – Inland  
(Sample Examination)

**Choose the best answer to the following Multiple-Choice questions.**

**NO** reference materials are authorized for use on this exam.

1. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Your vessel is at anchor in fog. The fog signal of another vessel, apparently underway, has been growing louder and the danger of collision appears to exist. In addition to your fog signal, what signal may be used to indicate your presence?
- A. No signal other than your fog signal may be used.
  - B. One short, one prolonged, and one short whistle blast
  - C. One prolonged followed by two short whistle blasts
  - D. One prolonged, one short, and one prolonged whistle blast

Correct answer: B

2. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND How long is the duration of a prolonged blast of the whistle?
- A. 2 to 4 seconds
  - B. 4 to 6 seconds
  - C. 6 to 8 seconds
  - D. 8 to 10 seconds

Correct answer: B

3. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND In a crossing situation of two power-driven vessels, the vessel which has the other on her own starboard side shall take which action?
- A. change course to port to keep out of the way
  - B. reduce her speed
  - C. if the circumstances of the case admit, avoid crossing ahead of the other
  - D. All of the above

Correct answer: C

4. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which describes a head-on situation?
- A. Seeing one red light of a vessel directly ahead
  - B. Seeing both sidelights of a vessel directly off your starboard beam
  - C. Seeing two forward white towing lights in a vertical line on a towing vessel directly ahead
  - D. Seeing both sidelights of a vessel directly ahead

Correct answer: D

5. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Rule 14 describes the action to be taken by vessels meeting head-on. Which of the following conditions must exist in order for this rule to apply?
- A. Both vessels must be power-driven
  - B. The situation must involve risk of collision
  - C. They must be meeting on reciprocal or nearly reciprocal courses
  - D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

6. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which of the following is TRUE of a distress signal?

- A. Is used to indicate doubt about another vessel's intentions
- B. May be used separately or with other distress signals
- C. Consists of the raising and lowering of a large white flag
- D. Consists of 5 or more short blasts of the fog signal apparatus

Correct answer: B

7. INLAND ONLY Vessels "A" and "B" are meeting on a river as shown in illustration D029RR below and will pass about 1/4 mile apart. Which statement is TRUE?

- A. Both vessels should continue on course and pass without sounding any whistle signals.
- B. The vessels should pass port to port and must sound whistle signals only if either vessel changes course.
- C. The vessels should exchange two blast whistle signals and pass starboard to starboard.
- D. The vessels should exchange two blast whistle signals and pass port to port.

Correct answer: C

8. INLAND ONLY Which light(s) are permitted ONLY for law enforcement vessels?

- A. two red lights in a vertical line
- B. an alternately flashing red and yellow light
- C. a flashing yellow light
- D. a flashing blue light

Correct answer: D

9. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND In which situation do the Rules require both vessels to change course?

- A. Two power-driven vessels crossing when it is apparent to the stand-on vessel that the give-way vessel is not taking appropriate action
- B. Two sailing vessels crossing with the wind on the same side
- C. Two power-driven vessels meeting head-on
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: C

10. INLAND ONLY While underway and in sight of another power-driven vessel forward of your beam, more than 0.5 mile away, you put your engines full speed astern. Which statement concerning whistle signals is TRUE?

- A. You must sound one blast if backing to starboard.
- B. You must sound three short blasts on the whistle.
- C. You must sound whistle signals only if the vessels are meeting.
- D. You need not sound any whistle signals.

Correct answer: D

11. INLAND ONLY When power-driven vessels are crossing, what does a signal of one short blast by either vessel mean?
- A. "I intend to change course to starboard"
  - B. "I intend to hold course and speed"
  - C. "I intend to leave you on my port side"
  - D. "I am altering course to starboard"

Correct answer: C

12. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Every vessel that is to keep out of the way of another vessel must take positive early action to comply with this obligation and must \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. sound one prolonged blast to indicate compliance
  - B. avoid crossing ahead of the other vessel
  - C. alter course to port for a vessel on her port side
  - D. avoid passing astern of the other vessel

Correct answer: B

13. INLAND ONLY When shall signals be sounded by a power-driven vessel intending to overtake another vessel?
- A. If another power-driven vessel is within half a mile
  - B. If the vessel is power-driven, and are in sight of one another
  - C. If the vessel is within half a mile of that vessel
  - D. If both are in sight of one another

Correct answer: B

14. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Two sailing vessels are approaching each other as shown in illustration D003RR below. Which statement is correct?
- A. Vessel "I" should stand-on because she is close-hauled.
  - B. Vessel "II" should stand-on because she has the wind on her starboard side.
  - C. Neither vessel is the stand-on vessel because they are meeting head-on.
  - D. Vessel "I" should stand-on because she has the wind on her port side.

Correct answer: B

15. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND According to the Navigation Rules, you may depart from the Rules when \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. you are in immediate danger
  - B. out of sight of land
  - C. no vessels are visible on radar
  - D. no vessels are in sight visually

Correct answer: A

16. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND A vessel, which does not normally engage in towing operations, is towing a vessel in distress. Which of the following statements is TRUE?
- A. need not show the lights for a vessel engaged in towing, if it is impractical to do so
  - B. must show a yellow light above the stern light
  - C. may show the lights for a vessel not under command
  - D. must show the lights for a vessel towing

Correct answer: A

17. INLAND ONLY The stand-on vessel in a crossing situation sounds one short blast of the whistle. This means that the vessel \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. is changing course to port
  - B. is changing course to starboard
  - C. intends to leave the other on her port side
  - D. intends to hold course and speed

Correct answer: C

18. INLAND ONLY Which of the following signals may be exhibited by a vessel trawling in close proximity to other fishing vessels?
- A. Two white lights in a vertical line
  - B. Two fixed yellow lights in a vertical line
  - C. A red light over a white light in a vertical line
  - D. All of the above

Correct answer: A

19. INLAND ONLY Which signal must a power-driven vessel give, in addition to one prolonged blast, when backing out of a berth with another vessel in sight 0.5nm away?
- A. 1 blast
  - B. 2 short blasts
  - C. 3 short blasts
  - D. no additional signal

Correct answer: C

20. INLAND ONLY You are on vessel "A", and vessel "B" desires to overtake you on your starboard side as shown in illustration D031RR below. After the vessels have exchanged one blast signals what action should you take?
- A. Slow your vessel until vessel "B" has passed
  - B. Hold course and speed
  - C. Alter course to the right to give vessel "B" more sea room
  - D. Alter course to the left to give vessel "B" more sea room

Correct answer: B

21. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which vessel(s) is/are required to sound a fog signal of one prolonged followed by two short blasts?
- A. A vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver, at anchor
  - B. A sailing vessel underway
  - C. A vessel not under command
  - D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

22. INLAND ONLY For the purpose of the Inland Navigation Rules, the term "Inland Waters" includes which of the following?
- A. The waters surrounding any islands of the U.S.
  - B. The coastline of the United States out to one mile offshore
  - C. Any lakes within state boundaries
  - D. The Great Lakes on the United States side of the boundary

Correct answer: D

23. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND What does the word "length" refer to?
- A. Length between the perpendiculars
  - B. Length overall
  - C. Waterline length
  - D. Registered length

Correct answer: B

24. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND By day, when it is impracticable for a small vessel engaged in diving operations to display the shapes for a vessel engaged in underwater operations, which shall she display?
- A. a rigid replica of the International Code flag "A"
  - B. two red balls in a vertical line
  - C. a black cylinder
  - D. three black balls in a vertical line

Correct answer: A

25. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND When two vessels are in immediate danger of collision, the stand-on vessel must take which action?
- A. Abandon ship
  - B. Assist in taking whatever action is necessary to avoid collision
  - C. Hold course and speed until the danger of collision is past and clear
  - D. Sound a distress signal

Correct answer: B

26. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND In a crossing situation, which vessel may sound a signal to indicate failure to understand the intentions or actions of another vessel consisting of at least five short and rapid blasts of the whistle?
- A. The stand-on vessel
  - B. Either vessel
  - C. The give-way vessel
  - D. Neither vessel

Correct answer: B

27. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are underway at night, and you sight the lights shown in illustration D047RR below. You know these lights indicate which of the following?
- A. dredge at work
  - B. trawler dragging nets
  - C. fishing vessel engaged in fishing
  - D. sailing vessel

Correct answer: D

28. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND While underway in a fog, you hear a whistle signal of one prolonged blast followed by two short blasts. This signal could be sounded by all of the following EXCEPT which vessel?
- A. Being towed
  - B. Not under command
  - C. Towing astern
  - D. Fishing with trawls

Correct answer: A

29. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which vessel must exhibit a conical shape, apex downwards?
- A. A 10-meter vessel engaged in fishing
  - B. A 15-meter vessel proceeding under sail when also being propelled by machinery
  - C. A 20-meter vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver while carrying out her work
  - D. All the above

Correct answer: B

30. INLAND ONLY Two power-driven vessels are crossing within a half a mile of each other as shown in illustration D042RR below. Vessel "A" sounds one short blast on the whistle. What should Vessel "B" sound if in agreement?
- A. two short blasts
  - B. two prolonged blasts followed by two short blasts
  - C. one short blast
  - D. three short blasts

Correct answer: C

31. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You see ONLY the light shown in illustration D080RR below. Which type of vessel are you observing?
- A. vessel engaged in fishing
  - B. vessel on pilotage duty
  - C. law enforcement vessel
  - D. sailing vessel

Correct answer: D

32. INLAND ONLY At night, you see the lights shown in illustration D075RR below. These lights are shown by what type of vessel?
- A. barge being pushed ahead
  - B. tug towing a barge astern
  - C. barge being towed astern
  - D. tug pushing a barge ahead

Correct answer: D

33. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which signal is recognized as a distress signal?
- A. A smoke signal giving off orange-colored smoke
  - B. International Code Signal "PAN" spoken over the radiotelephone
  - C. A whistle signal of one prolonged and three short blasts
  - D. Directing the beam of a searchlight at another vessel

Correct answer: A

34. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND The Rules state that certain factors are to be taken into account when determining safe speed. Which is one of the factors?
- A. temperature
  - B. maximum speed of your vessel
  - C. current
  - D. radio communications that are available

Correct answer: C

35. INLAND ONLY You sight a vessel displaying an alternating red and yellow light. What does this light indicate?
- A. a vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver
  - B. a vessel in distress
  - C. a law enforcement vessel
  - D. a vessel engaged in public safety activities

Correct answer: D

36. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND A vessel is being propelled both by sail and by engines. Under the Rules, the vessel is in which category?
- A. A sail vessel
  - B. A "special circumstance" vessel
  - C. A power-driven vessel
  - D. The vessel is not covered under any category

Correct answer: C



37. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are underway in heavy fog. You hear the fog signal of a vessel which is somewhere ahead of your vessel. Which action(s) are you required to take?
- A. Slow to moderate speed and navigate with caution
  - B. Maintain speed and sound five short and rapid blasts
  - C. Slow to minimum to maintain course and navigate with caution
  - D. Stop engines and navigate with caution

Correct answer: C

38. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND A vessel is exhibiting the lights shown in illustration D082RR below. Which can you conclude about the vessel?
- A. it is a trawling vessel
  - B. it is a sailing vessel
  - C. it is a pilot boat on duty
  - D. it is a fishing vessel

Correct answer: D

39. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are approaching another vessel on crossing courses. She is approximately half a mile distant and is presently on your starboard bow. You believe she will cross ahead of you. She then sounds a whistle signal of five short blasts. Which action should you take?
- A. Reduce speed slightly to make sure she will have room to pass
  - B. Wait for another whistle signal from the other vessel and comply with that signal
  - C. Answer the signal and hold course and speed
  - D. Make a large course change, accompanied by the appropriate whistle signal, and slow down if necessary

Correct answer: D

40. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are approaching another vessel on crossing courses. She is about one mile distant and is on your starboard bow. You believe she will cross ahead of you, but she sounds a whistle signal of five short blasts. Which action should you take?
- A. make a large course change, and slow down if necessary
  - B. answer the signal and hold course and speed
  - C. reduce speed slightly
  - D. initiate a passing signal that will allow for a half mile clearance

Correct answer: A

41. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which vessel shall exhibit a rigid replica of the International Code flag "A"?
- A. a vessel pulling a submarine cable
  - B. a vessel engaged in underway replenishment
  - C. a vessel engaged in diving operations
  - D. a vessel transferring explosives

Correct answer: C

42. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Navigation lights must be displayed in all weathers from sunset to sunrise. They also \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. must be displayed when moored to a pier
  - B. may be extinguished at night on open waters when no other vessels are in the area
  - C. may be displayed during daylight
  - D. must be displayed when day signals are being used

Correct answer: C

43. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are approaching a bend and hear a whistle signal of one prolonged blast from around the bend. Which signal should you sound?
- A. A short blast
  - B. One short, one prolonged, and one short blast
  - C. A prolonged blast
  - D. A long blast

Correct answer: C

44. INLAND ONLY Your power-driven vessel is meeting another vessel head-on. To comply with the steering and sailing rules what action should you take?
- A. Exchange two short blasts
  - B. Sound at least five short and rapid blasts
  - C. Sound one prolonged and two short blasts
  - D. Exchange one short blast

Correct answer: D

45. INLAND ONLY You are on power-driven vessel "A" and power-driven vessel "B" desires to overtake you on the starboard side as shown in illustration D038RR below. After the vessels have exchanged one blast signals what action should you take?
- A. Hold course and speed
  - B. Slow your vessel until vessel "B" has passed
  - C. Alter course to the left or right to give vessel "B" more sea room
  - D. Alter course to the left

Correct answer: A

46. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND The white masthead light required for a power-driven vessel under the Rules is visible over how many degrees of the horizon?
- A. 022.5°
  - B. 112.5°
  - C. 225.0°
  - D. 360.0°

Correct answer: C

47. INLAND ONLY You are overtaking another power-driven vessel in a narrow channel. The other vessel will have to move to allow you to pass. You wish to overtake the other vessel on her starboard side. What should be your first whistle signal?
- A. one short blast
  - B. two prolonged blasts followed by two short blasts
  - C. two short blasts
  - D. two prolonged blasts followed by one short blast

Correct answer: A

48. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND When navigating in restricted visibility, what action shall a power-driven vessel take?
- A. When making way, sound one prolonged blast at intervals of not more than one minute
  - B. Operate at a speed to be able to stop in the distance of her visibility
  - C. Stop her engines when hearing a fog signal forward of her beam, even if risk of collision does not exist
  - D. Have the engines ready for immediate maneuver

Correct answer: D

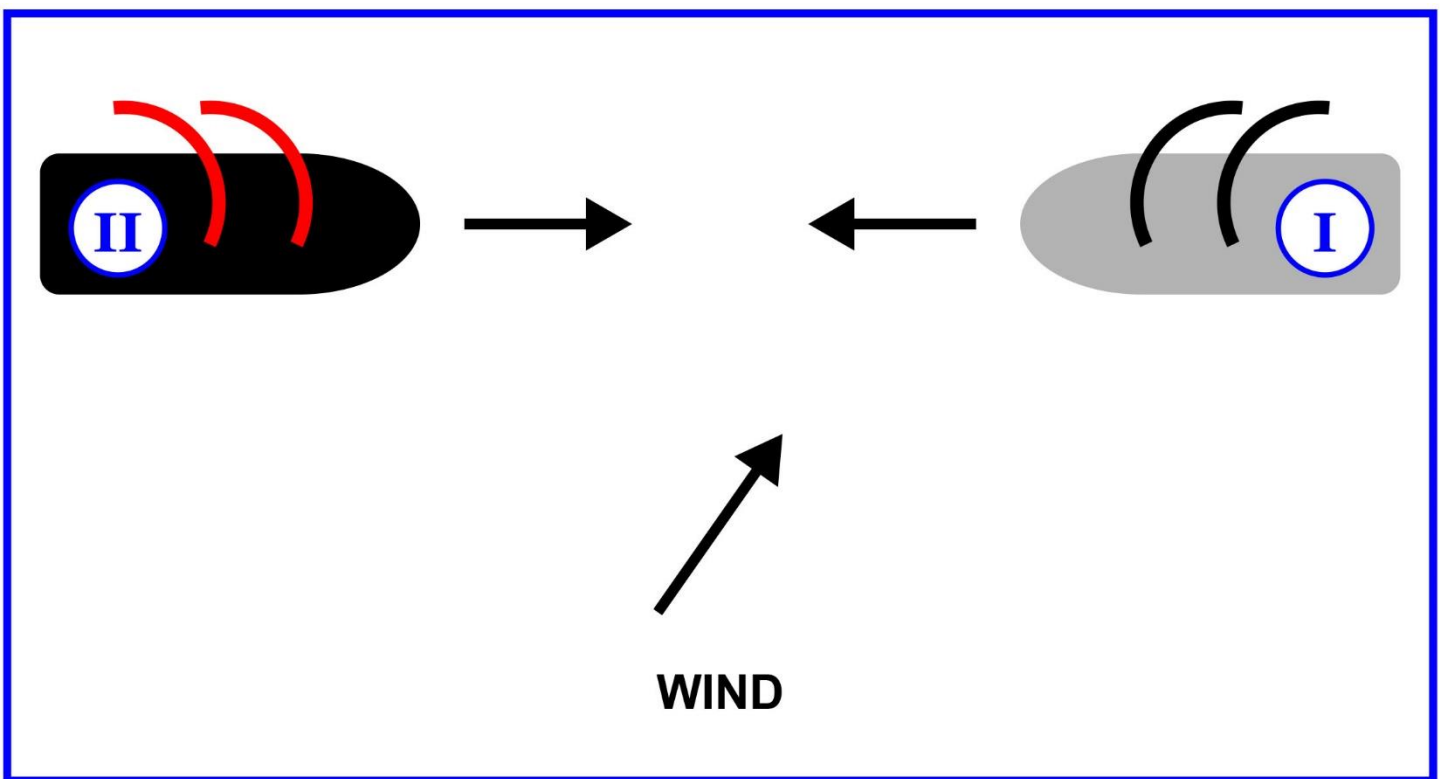
49. INLAND ONLY A vessel leaving a dock or berth must sound a prolonged blast of the whistle only if \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. she is a power-driven vessel
  - B. visibility is restricted
  - C. her engines are going astern
  - D. other vessels can be seen approaching

Correct answer: A

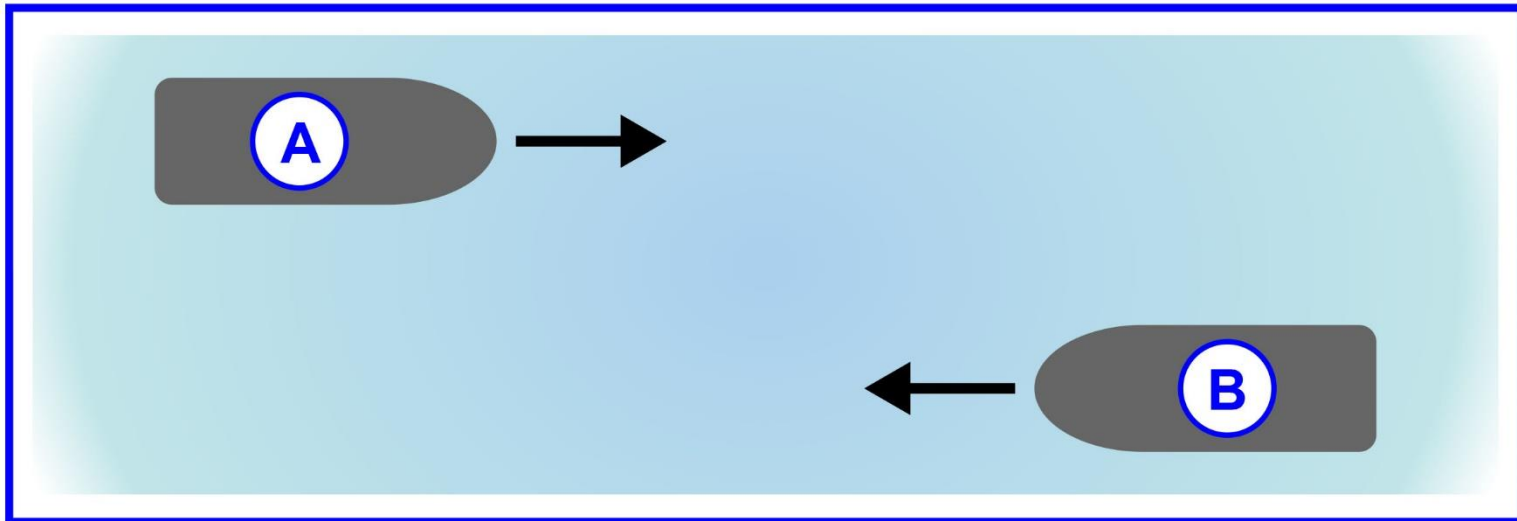
50. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND You are on watch in fog. Which vessel is "in sight"?
- A. A vessel that you can see from the bridge
  - B. A radar target of which you have determined the course and speed
  - C. A vessel from which you can hear the fog signal
  - D. All the above

Correct answer: A

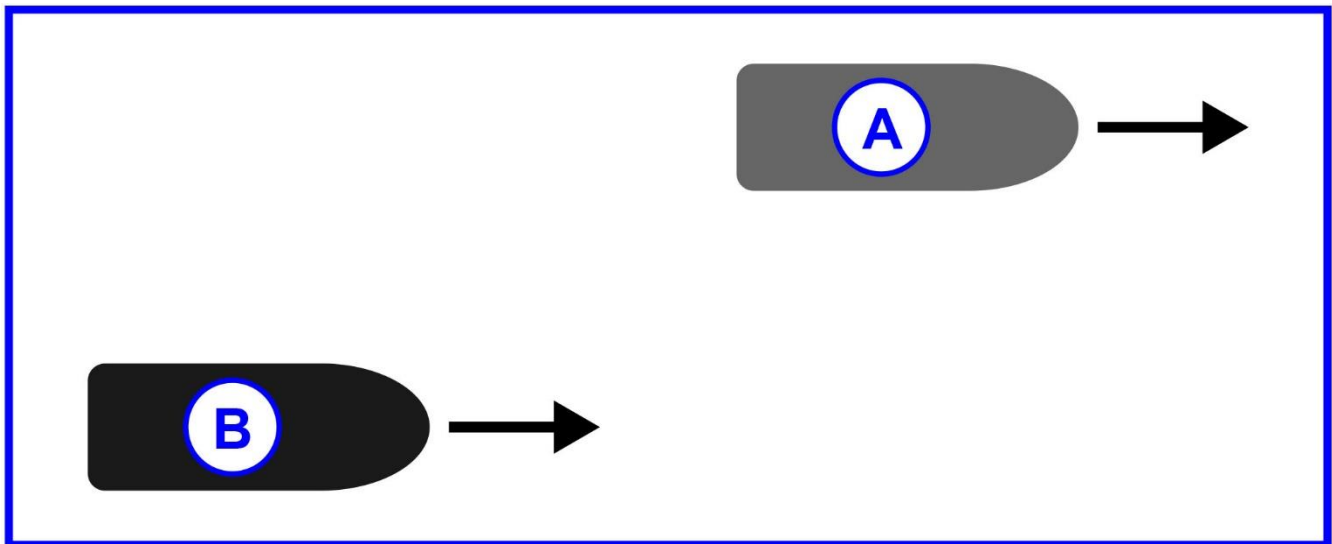
## D003RR



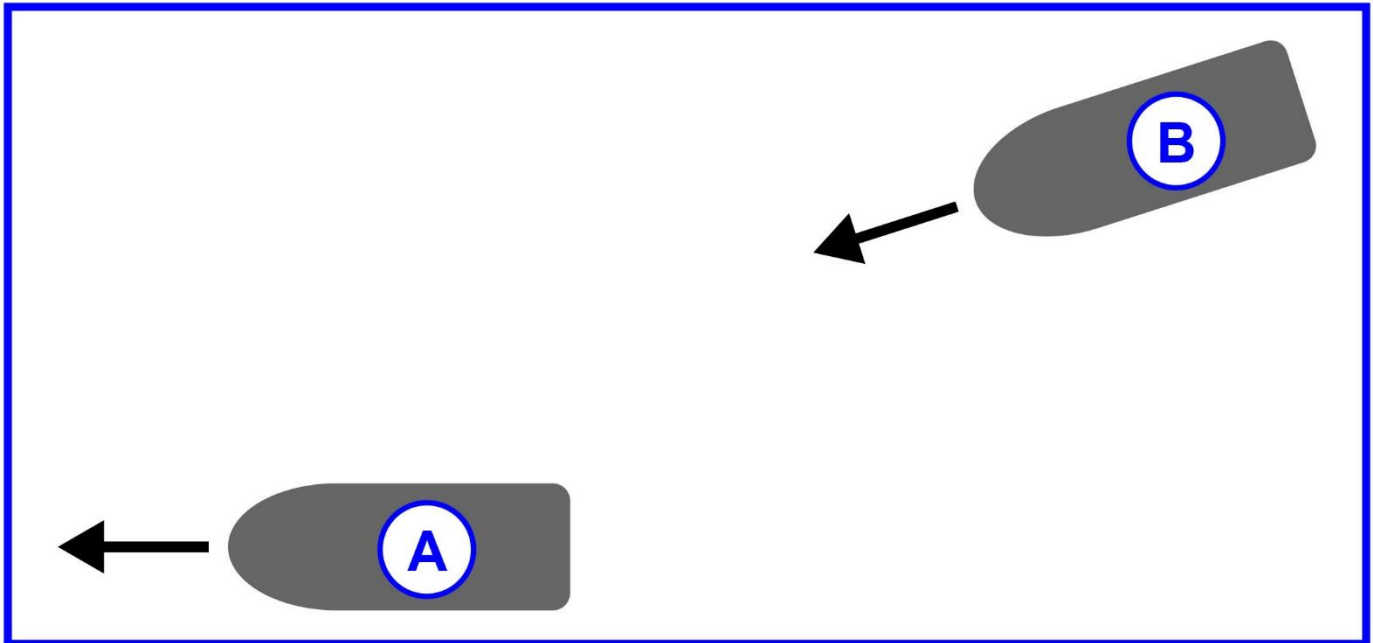
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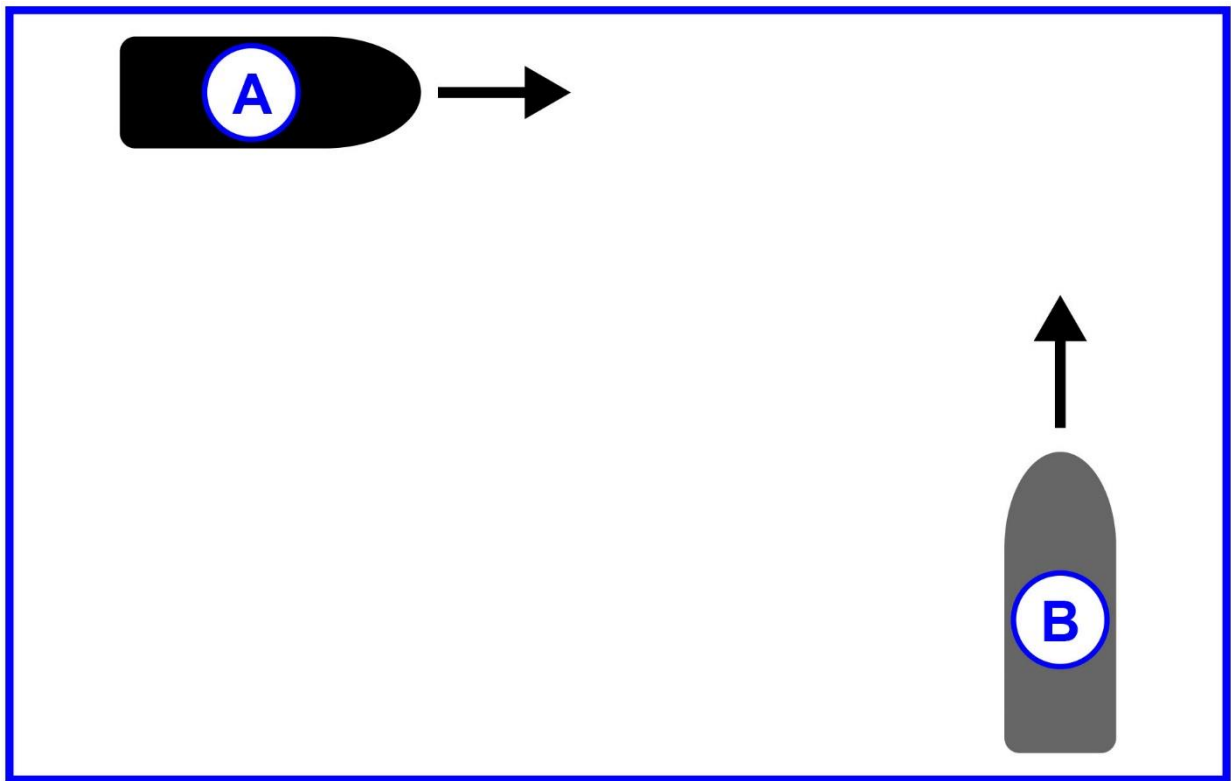
## D031RR



## D038RR

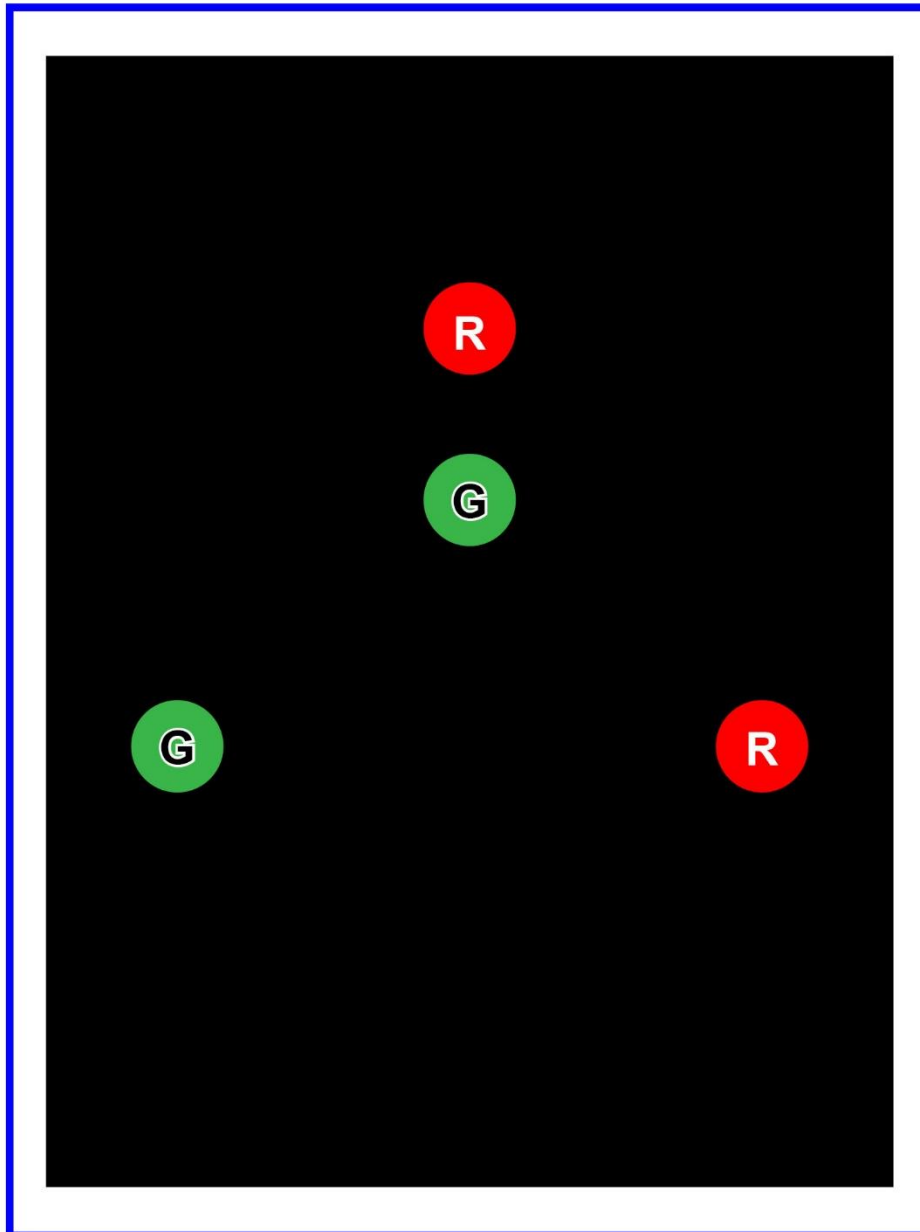


## D042RR

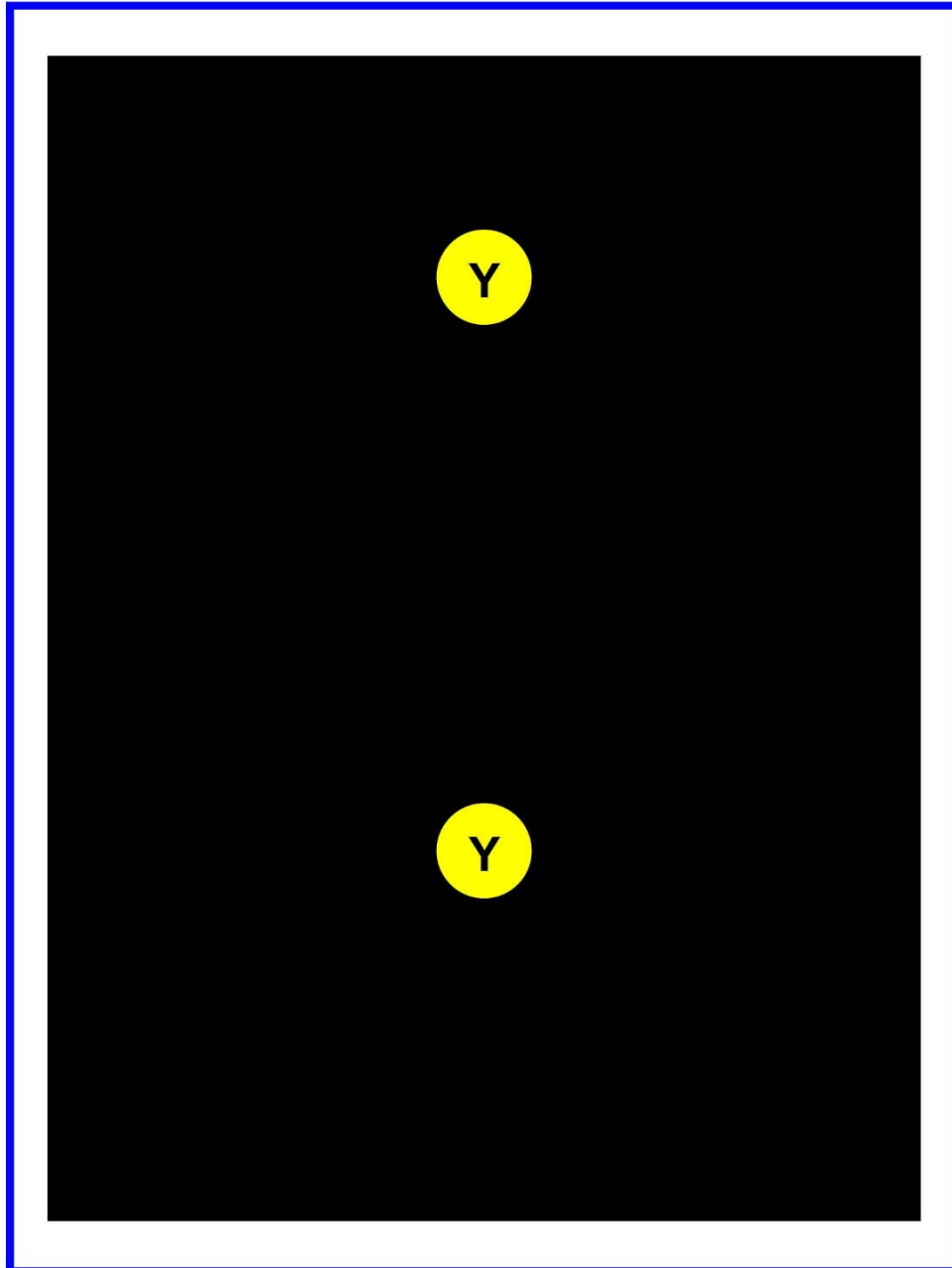




## D047RR

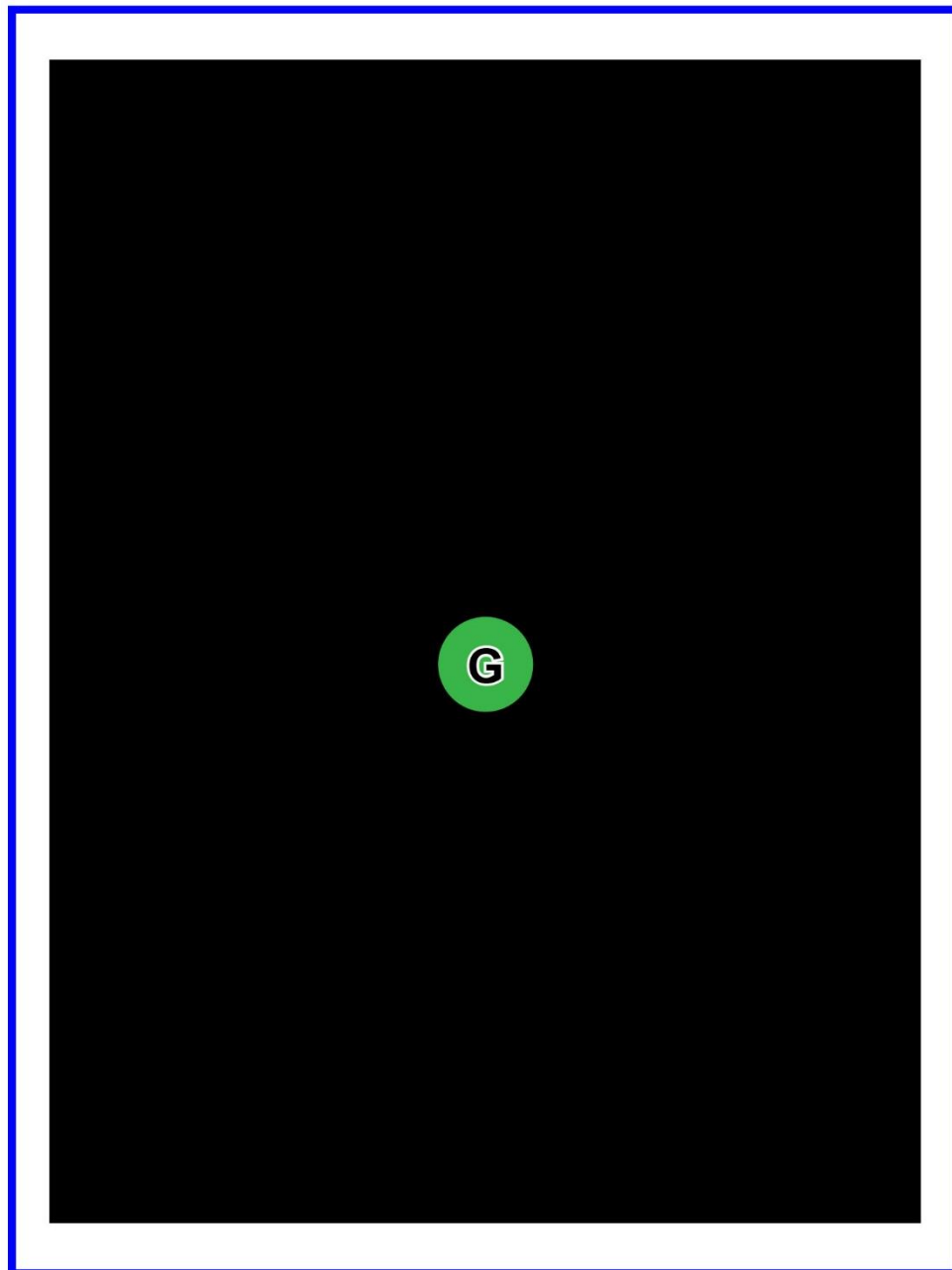


## D075RR



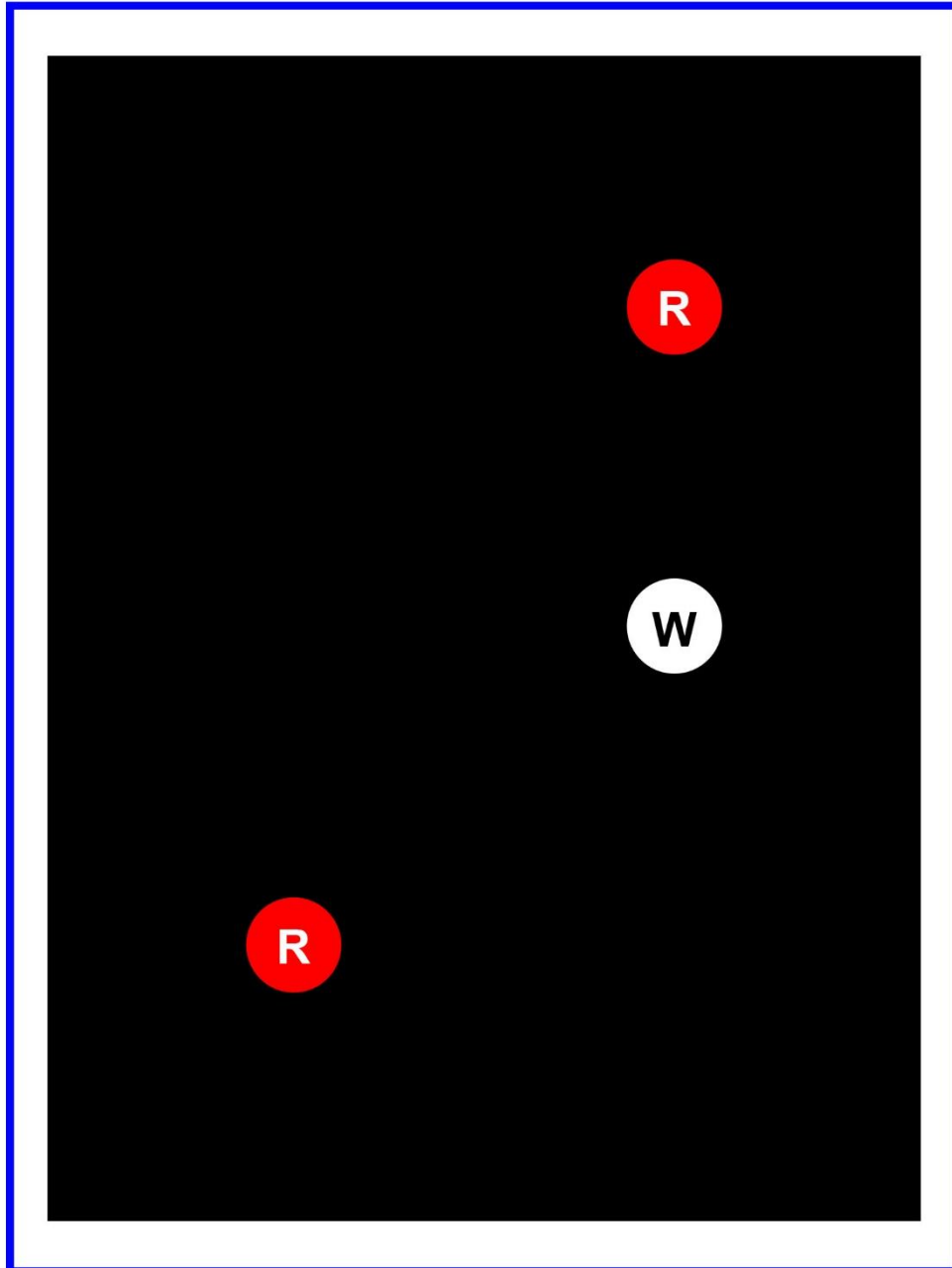
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## D080RR



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## D082RR



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