

SOUND SIGNALS FOR FOG, ETC.

ARTICLE 15

All signals prescribed by this Article for vessels under way shall be given—

1. By "steam vessels" on the whistle or siren.
2. By "sailing vessels and vessels towed" on the fog horn.

The words "prolonged blast" used in this Article, shall mean a blast of from 4 to 6 seconds' duration.

A steam vessel shall be provided with an efficient whistle or siren, sounded by steam or some substitute for steam, so placed that the sound may not be intercepted by any obstruction, and with an efficient fog-horn, to be sounded by mechanical means, and also with an efficient bell.* A sailing vessel of 20 tons gross tonnage or upwards shall be provided with a similar fog-horn and bell.

In fog, mist, falling snow or heavy rain-storms, whether by day or night, the signals described in this Article shall be used as follows, viz.:—

(a) A steam vessel having way upon her, shall sound, at intervals of not more than 2 minutes, a prolonged blast.

(b) A steam vessel under way, but stopped and having no way upon her, shall sound, at intervals of not more than 2 minutes, 2 prolonged blasts, with an interval of about 1 second between them.

(c) A sailing vessel under way shall sound, at intervals of not more than 1 minute, when on the starboard tack, 1 blast, when on the port tack, 2 blasts in succession, and when with the wind abaft the beam, 3 blasts in succession.

(d) A vessel, when at anchor, shall, at intervals of not more than 1 minute, ring the bell rapidly for about 5 seconds.

In vessels of more than 350 feet in length the bell shall be sounded in the forepart of the vessel, and, in addition, there shall be sounded in the after-part of the vessel, at intervals of not more than 1 minute, a gong or other instrument, the tone of which cannot be confused with the ringing of the bell.

(e) A vessel, when towing, a vessel employed in laying or in picking up a telegraph submarine cable, and a vessel under way, which is unable to get out of the way of an approaching vessel through being not under command, or unable to manœuvre as required by these Rules shall, instead of the signals prescribed in subdivisions (a), (b) and (c) of this Article, at intervals of not more than 2 minutes, sound 3 blasts in succession, viz., 1 prolonged blast followed by 2 short blasts. ~~A vessel towed may give this signal and she shall not give any other.~~

* In all cases where the rules require a bell to be used a drum may be substituted on board Turkish vessels, or a gong where such articles are used on board small sea-going vessels.