

COLREGs convention

Official reference	Convention on the international regulations for preventing collisions at sea	
Official website	www.imo.org	
Relevant dates	Document	20/10/1972
	Entry into force	15/07/1977
	Ratification by Belgium	24/11/1975
Policy level	International	
Type of instrument	Convention	
Geographical reach	World seas	
(Legal) coverage in the BNS	Internal waters, territorial sea, exclusive economic zone	
International contact point	International Maritime Organisation (IMO)	
Federal ratification law	Wet van 24 november 1975 houdende goedkeuring en uitvoering van het Verdrag inzake de internationale bepalingen ter voorkoming van aanvaringen op zee, 1972, bijgevoegd Reglement en zijn Bijlagen, opgemaakt te Londen op 20 oktober 1972	

// abstract:

The COLREGs convention was created to substitute the Collision Regulations of 1960. One of the most significant innovations in the convention was the acknowledgement of traffic separation schemes. This convention provides regulations for the determination of safe velocity, the risk of collisions and the guidance of ships that operate in or in close proximity to the traffic separation schemes.

The convention consists of 38 measures, divided into five sections: Part A - General; Part B - Steering and Sailing; Part C - Lights and Shapes; Part D - Sound and Light signals; and Part E - Exemptions. Moreover, four annexes were added with the technical requirements concerning lights, ship types and their positioning, sound-emitting devices, complementary signals for fishing vessels when they operate too close to one another, as well as international emergency signals.