

—INLAND— Lights and Shapes

**RULE 23: Power-driven Vessels Underway**

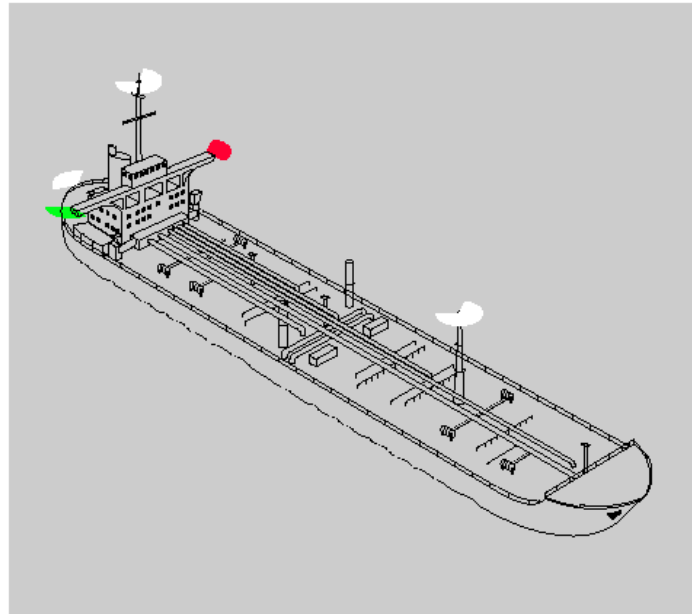
(a) A power-driven vessel underway:

(i) a **masthead light forward**;

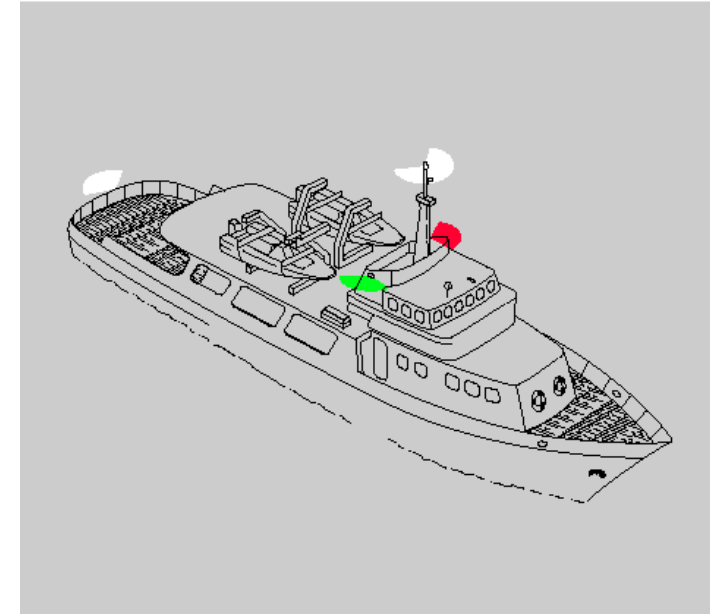
(ii) a **second masthead light abaft of and higher** than the forward one  
vessel of **less than 50 meters** in length shall **not obliged**, may do so;

(iii) **sidelights**; and

(iv) a **stern light**.



Power-driven underway - 50 meters+.  
Same for International.



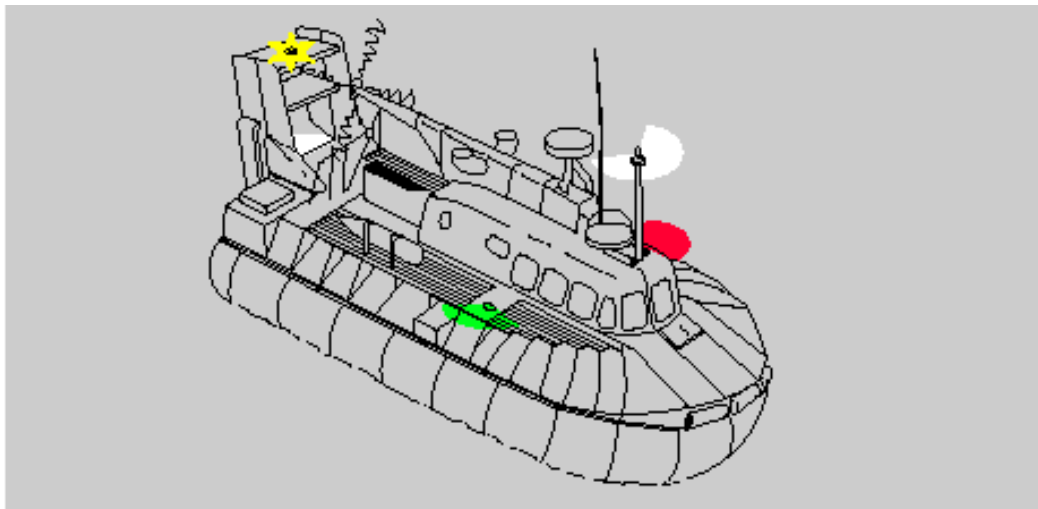
Power-driven underway - less than 50 meters.  
Same for International.

Semantics, but important. The division for length is “< 50m” for one masthead light

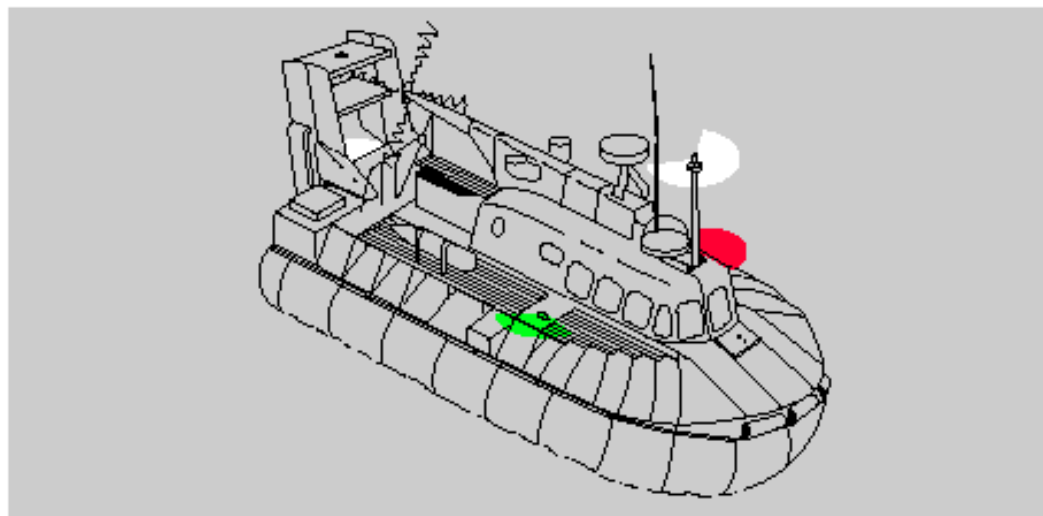
I thought this helpful since we see these on Wednesday nights

### RULE 23: Power-driven Vessels Underway

(b) An air-cushion vessel when operating in the **nondisplacement** mode shall **Flying**, in addition to the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule, exhibit an **all-round flashing yellow light**.



Air-cushion vessel when operating in the nondisplacement mode - < 50 meters.



Air-cushion vessel when operating in the displacement mode - < 50 meters.

We see some of these too!

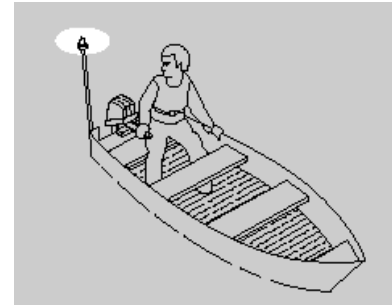
### RULE 23: Power-driven Vessels Underway

(c) A **WIG** craft only when taking off, landing and in flight near the surface shall, in addition to the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Rule, exhibit a **high intensity all-round flashing red light**.

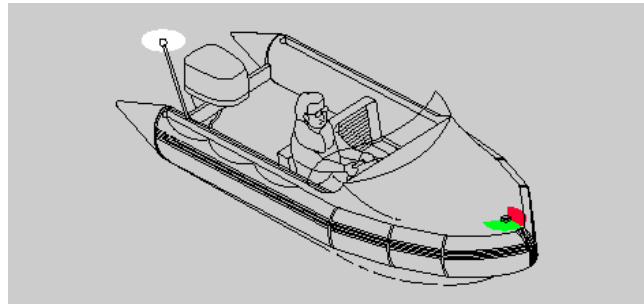
(d)

(i) **< 12 meters** in lieu of the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) exhibit an **all-round white light and sidelights**;

(ii) **< 7 meters, speed < 7 knots** may **in lieu of** the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) exhibit an **all-round white light** and shall, **if practicable**, also exhibit **sidelights**;



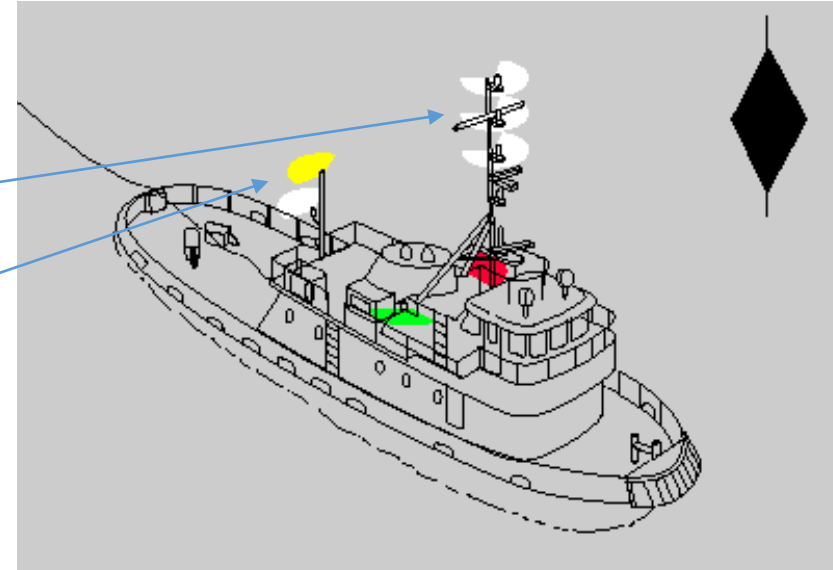
(iii) the masthead light or all-round white light on a power-driven vessel < 12 meters in length **may be displaced from** the fore and aft **centerline**, provided that the **sidelights are combined** in one lantern on **centerline** of the vessel



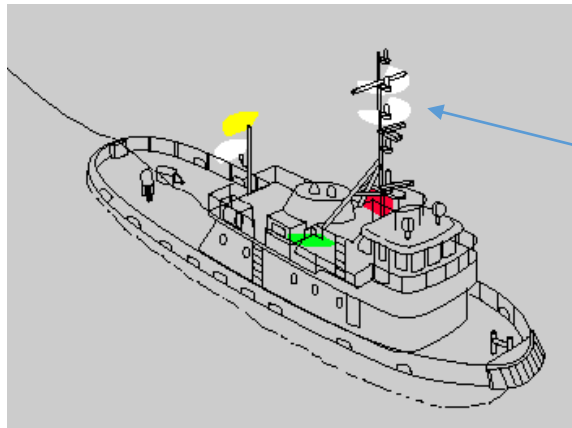
—INLAND— Lights and Shapes

**RULE 24: Towing and Pushing**

- (a) A power-driven vessel when towing shall exhibit:
- (i) 2 masthead lights.  
3 masthead lights. length of the tow exceeds 200 meters  
(measured stern of towing vessel to after end of the tow);
  - (ii) Side lights;
  - (iii) a stern light;
  - (iv) a towing light above the stern light; and
  - (v) when length of the tow exceeds 200 meters, a diamond shape where it can best be seen.



towing vessel < 50 meters; tow > 200 meters.  
Same for Inland

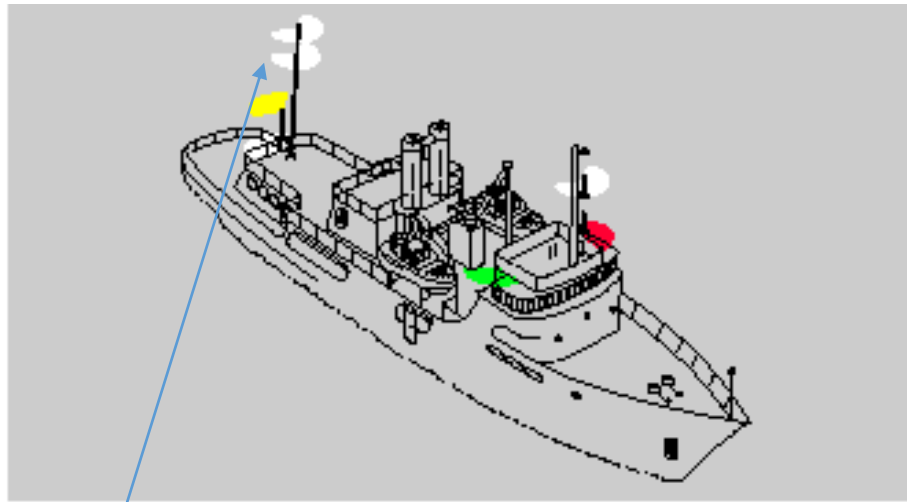


Only 2 mast head  
lights for tow  
200m or less

towing vessel < 50 meters; tow 200 meters or less.  
Same for International.

—INLAND—  
Lights and Shapes

**RULE 24:**  
**Towing and Pushing**

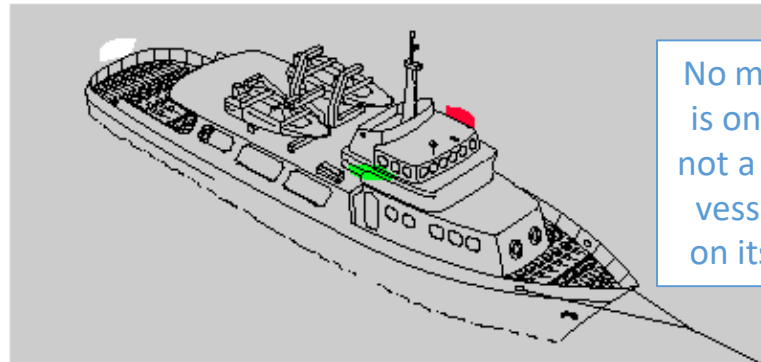


towing astern - tow 200 meters or less.

- masthead lights for towing or pushing are exhibited aft, a forward masthead light is required.

- Same for International.

I put para (d)  
before para (c) to  
continue the  
towing info before  
moving onto  
pushing ahead or  
towing alongside



No masthead light  
is only way to tell  
not a power driven  
vessel underway  
on its own power

(d) A vessel **being towed** shall exhibit:

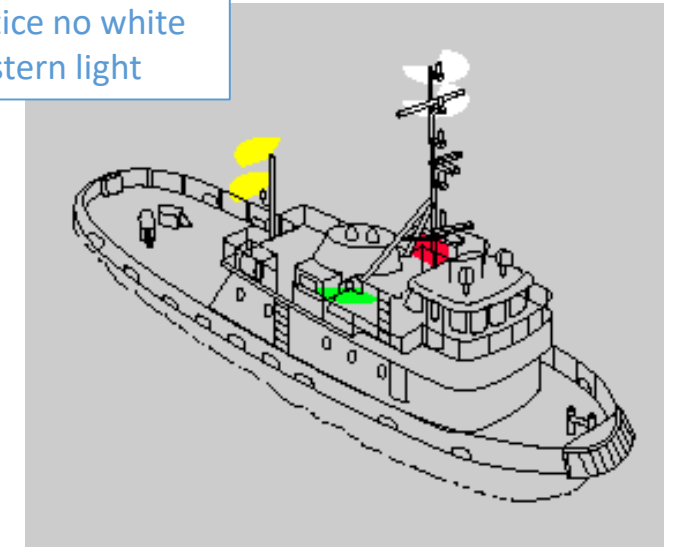
(i) **sidelights**;

(ii) a **stern light**; and

(iii) when the length of the tow exceeds 200 meters, a diamond shape where it can best be seen.

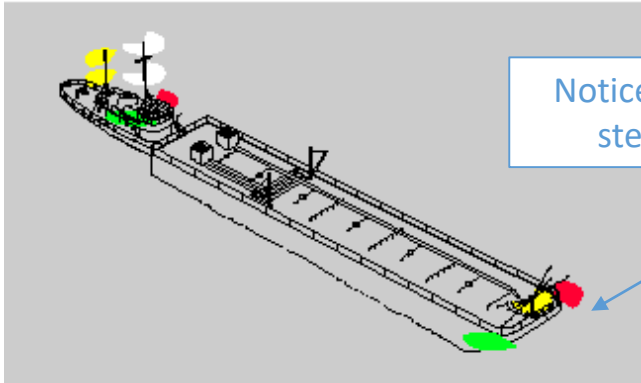
- (c) ... pushing ahead or towing alongside
- (i) **two masthead** lights in a vertical line;
  - (ii) **sidelights**
  - (iii) **two towing lights** in a vertical line

Notice no white  
stern light

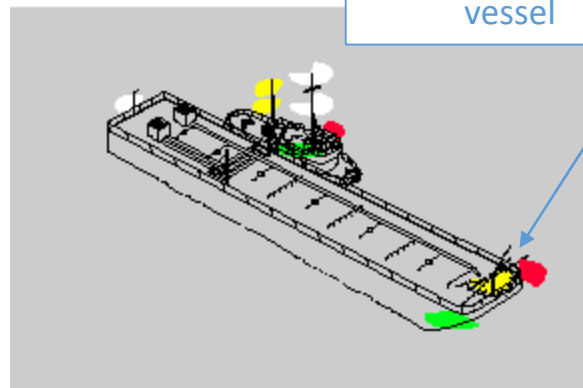


pushing ahead or towing alongside  
vessel less than 50 meters in length

**RULE 24: Towing and Pushing**



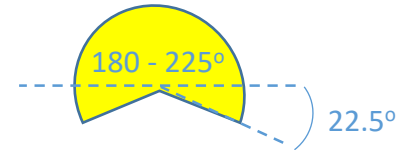
Vessel being **pushed** ahead, not a composite unit.



Vessel being **towed alongside**.

“Special flashing light”

**yellow** light, flashing **50 to 70 flashes** per minute, as far forward and near centerline of the **tow**. arc of **180 degrees nor more than 225** degrees, ahead to abeam and no more than 22.5 degrees abaft abeam.



Can you tow a buddy in an emergency without towing lights? Yes!

(j) ... impracticable for a vessel **not normally engaged in towing** is **not required** to exhibit those lights when engaged in towing another vessel in **distress** or otherwise in need of assistance.

But do shine a light on the tow so other vessels will see that you are towing and not cut in between you and your tow.

All possible measures shall be taken to **indicate** the nature of the relationship between the **towing vessel and the vessel being assisted**. The **searchlight** authorized by Rule 36 may be used to **illuminate** the **tow**.