

"Depart from the rules to avoid collisions..."



Notes on Rule 2

- **Mariners are responsible for complying with the Rules.** They are not just suggested guidelines or best practices.
- Mariners are not only **responsible** for complying with the Rules, but also for **departing from the rules to avoid collisions** due to "**special circumstances**".
- **Special circumstances** can include any situation that is not referenced in the Rules (there is no way of listing every situation). Some **examples** include: **vessels entering or leaving a slip, vessels proceeding stern-first, vessels not making way, two vessels in a collision situations where both must take action to avoid collision, draft limitations and presence of more than two vessels.**

Rule 2 Responsibility

(a) Nothing in these Rules shall exonerate any vessel, or the owner, master or crew thereof, from the consequences of any neglect to comply with these Rules or of the neglect of any precaution which may be required by the ordinary practice of seamen, or by the special circumstances of the case.

(b) In construing and complying with these Rules due regard shall be had to all dangers of navigation and collision and to any special circumstances, including the limitations of the vessels involved, which may make a departure from these Rules necessary to avoid immediate danger.