



**IALA RECOMMENDATION**

E-110

RHYTHMIC CHARACTERS OF LIGHTS ON AIDS TO NAVIGATION

**Edition 4.0**

**December 2016**





**DOCUMENT REVISION**

Revisions to this IALA Document are to be noted in the table prior to the issue of a revised document.

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| **Date** | **Page / Section Revised** | **Requirement for Revision** |
| October 2005 | Tables amended to provide graphic representation | Provide clearer representation of characteristics and keep in line with revised edition of IALA NAVGUIDE |
| April 2012 | Table amended to include Emergency Wreck Marking Buoy | Adoption of EWMB in the revised MBS |
| December 2016 | Annex | Revision of text to remove guidance to the IALA Guideline on selection of rhythmic characters and synchronisation of lights for AtoN and reformatting |
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**THE IALA COUNCIL**

**RECALLING**

1. The function of IALA with respect to Safety of Navigation, the efficiency of maritime transport and the protection of the environment,
2. Article 8 of the IALA Constitution regarding the authority, duties and functions of the Council,

**RECOGNISING**

1. The need to provide guidance on the classes and limits within which the rhythmic characters of lights on aids to navigation should be determined,

**RECOGNISING ALSO**

1. That such guidance should enable a common approach to be made world-wide, thus greatly assisting mariners, who, while passing through waters of different authorities, should not be confused by light characters that are difficult to read or understand, or that exist in too great a diversity,
2. **CONSIDERING**
3. The proposals of the Engineering and Sustainability Committee,

**ADOPTS** the Recommendation on rhythmic characters of lights on aids to navigation as described below,

**INVITES** Members and marine aids to navigation Authorities worldwide to implement the rhythmic characters of lights on aids to navigation set out in the Annex to this Recommendation,

**RECOMMENDS** National members and other appropriate Authorities providing marine aids to navigation services comply with the following provisions in relation to the rhythmic characters presented by all-round lights, sector lights, leading lights and direction lights:

1. For new lights, determine their rhythmic characters by use of this Recommendation.
2. For existing lights, endeavor to make them conform to the ANNEX to this Recommendation as soon as practicable.
3. Comply with this Recommendation, in order to harmonize the determination of the rhythmic characters of lights on aids to navigation on a worldwide basis. References to the IALA Maritime Buoyage System are included where appropriate.
4. Refer to IALA Guideline 1116 – on Selection of Rhythmic Characters and Synchronisation of Lights for Aids to Navigation.
5. All characters used should be in conformity with the general recommendations of this document. (Note 3)
6. The International Dictionary of Marine Aids to Navigation, Chapter 2, Visual Aids, should be consulted for definitions of the types and characteristics of lights on aids to navigation.
7. The lights of the special marks should not show any of the rhythmic characters that have been assigned to the marks showing white lights. (Note 4)
8. The white lights of the cardinal marks be given a characteristic identity by the use of flashes at the rates for very quick lights or quick lights as the whole or a part of each of the rhythmic characters assigned to them. (Note 5)
9. A light must, on a given bearing, maintain a consistent character.
10. The periods of the characters of rhythmic lights should be selected in accordance with location-specific navigational requirements. The period should not exceed the values in Table 1.
11. Rhythmic characters of lights should be classified in accordance with Table 2.
12. Rhythmic characters of the lights in the IALA Maritime Buoyage System should be set up in accordance with Table 3.

**REQUESTS** the Engineering and Sustainability Committee or such other committee as the Council may direct to keep the Recommendation under review and to propose amendments as necessary.