

COLREGS RULE 6 SAFE SPEED



STEAMSHIP MUTUAL



Every vessel shall at all times proceed at a safe speed so that she can take proper and effective action to avoid a collision and be stopped within a distance appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions.

In determining a safe speed the following factors shall be among those taken into account:

- (a) By all vessels:
 - (i) The state of visibility;
 - (ii) The traffic density including concentrations of fishing vessels or any other vessels;
 - (iii) The manoeuvrability of the vessel with special reference to stopping distance and turning ability in the prevailing conditions;
- (b) Additionally, by vessels with operational radar:
 - (i) The characteristics, efficiency and limitations of the radar equipment;
 - (ii) Any constraints imposed by the radar range scale in use;
 - (iii) The effect on radar detection of the sea state, weather and other sources of interference;
 - (iv) At night the presence of background light such as from shore lights or from back scatter of her own lights;
 - (v) The state of wind, sea and current, and the proximity of navigational hazards;
 - (vi) The draught in relation to the available depth of water.
- (c) Additionally, by vessels with operational radar:
 - (iv) The possibility that small vessels, ice and other floating objects may not be detected by radar at an adequate range;
 - (v) The number, location and movements of vessels detected by radar;
 - (vi) The more exact assessment of the visibility that may be possible when radar is used to determine the range of vessels or other objects in the vicinity.

