

Special Regulations Interpretation

2017-2021 Special Regulations – Reserve Navigation Lights

Issued 11 December 2019

1. Question:

Do the reserve navigation lights required by Special Regulation 3.23.4 have to conform with the requirements of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS)?

2. Answer:

As closely as is practicable.

3. Issue:

A variety of reserve navigation lights are available on the market.

The person in charge and Equipment Auditors require guidance on what reserve navigation lights may be considered compliant with SR 3.23.4.

Reserve navigation lights compliant with SR 3.23.4 should be able to be fitted so as to show the required coloured light over the prescribed arc and range specified in the IRPCAS as closely as is practicable.

4. Background:

The reserve navigation lights are for use in situations when the primary systems or a single light in that system has failed. Australian Sailing accepts that the reserve navigation lights may have an 'ad hoc' fitting arrangement that may not display the light(s) precisely over the prescribed arc(s).

Reserve navigation lights must be sufficient to perform their fundamental purpose when a primary light or light system fails and display the necessary lights allowing the boat to be seen by other boats and provide those other boats with an indication of its presence and aspect.

There have been significant improvements in the integrity of a boat's electric systems and the primary navigation lights reducing the likelihood of needing or the level of reliance on reserve navigation lights.

Australian Sailing Limited
ABN 26 602 997 562

Level 1, 22 Atchison Street
St Leonards NSW 2065

Locked Bag 806
Milsoms Point NSW 1565
Australia

T +61 2 8424 7400
E office@sailing.org.au
W www.sailing.org.au

Program Partner



Affiliated with

