

**FALMOUTH
HARBOUR**

UK's Atlantic gateway.

Notice to Mariners No. 7 of 2024 Use of Navigation Lights

Ahead of seasonal increase in recreational activity, Harbour Users are reminded that it is a legal requirement under the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 (the COLREGs) for all vessels to display the appropriate navigation lights between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility.

The requirement to display navigation lights applies equally to small tenders as to any other vessel. The lighting requirements of the COLREGs that may be applicable to smaller vessels and tenders are:

- *A power-driven vessel of less than 7 metres in length whose maximum speed does not exceed 7 knots may exhibit an all-round white light and shall, if practicable, also exhibit sidelights*
- *A vessel under oars may exhibit the lights prescribed for sailing vessels, but if she does not, she shall have ready at hand an electric torch or lighted lantern showing a white light which shall be exhibited in sufficient time to prevent collision – Falmouth Harbour recommend that at minimum, an all-round white light is displayed.*

Failure to display navigation lights endangers not only your own vessel but others around you, and significantly increases the risk of collision. Falmouth Harbour will be undertaking random patrols throughout 2024 to monitor the use of navigation lights (and compliance with other harbour regulations).

The RYA publishes useful information on navigation lights at: [RYA Knowledge & Safety - Have a plan Nav Lights](#) and a handy tabular guide here: [RYA Lights and shapes COLREGS Summary](#)

We also recommend that spare bulbs of the correct wattage should always be carried on board, together with other electrical spares such as fuses, batteries, and an emergency alternative to your any fixed navigation lights in case they should fail.

Full details of the COLREGs and their lighting requirements can be found in [MSN 1781 \(M+F\)](#)

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Miles Featherstone
Harbour Master

To view all active Notices to Mariners, visit [Harbour Notices and Directions](#)
For Notices to Mariners remaining in force from previous years see: [Notice to Mariners No 1 of 2023](#)

VHF radio traffic, AIS and CCTV are routinely recorded by Falmouth Harbour

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