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## **UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF COLREG 1972, AS AMENDED**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-fourth session (7 to 16 May 2008), with a view to providing more specific guidance for certain Rules, which are open to different interpretations contained in IMO instruments, approved the unified interpretations of COLREG 1972, as amended, prepared by the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation, as set out in the annex.

2 Member Governments are invited to use the annexed unified interpretations as guidance when applying relevant provisions of COLREGs to vessels constructed on or after 1 January 2009 and to bring the unified interpretations to the attention of all parties concerned.

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**ANNEX****UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF COLREG 1972, AS AMENDED****Rule 27(b)(i) – Vessels not under command or restricted in their ability to manoeuvre**

“Not under command” (NUC) all-round red lights (Rule 27(a)(ii)) may be used as part of the “Restricted Ability to Manoeuvre” (RAM) lights provided the vertical and horizontal distances required by COLREG 1972 are complied with and the electrical system is arranged so that the all-round white light (RAM) may be switched on independently from the two all-round red lights (NUC).

**Annex I, section 3(b) – Horizontal positioning and spacing of lights**

The term “near the side” is interpreted as being a distance of not more than 10% of the breadth of the vessel inboard from the side, up to a maximum of 1 metre. Where the application of above requirement is impractical (e.g., small ships with superstructure of reduced width) exemption may be given on the basis of the Flag Authority acceptance.

**Annex I, section 9(b) – Horizontal sectors**

In order to comply with the 1-mile requirement in 9(b)(ii), the all-round lights shall be screened less than 180 degrees. However, as a light source is not a point but has a certain extension, it may be accepted that all-round lights are screened up to 180 degrees. Screening details are to be considered by Societies when carrying out the drawing approval process.

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