



# Sealite®

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## IALA Maritime Buoyage System



Above: Sealite Poseidon-1750 Ocean Buoy, West Sea

## Who is IALA?

Established in 1957, IALA (International Association of Marine Aids and Lighthouse Authorities) is a non-profit international technical association. IALA provides nautical expertise and advice. IALA encourages its members to work together to harmonise aids to navigation worldwide and to ensure the movements of vessels are safe, expeditious and cost effective whilst simultaneously protecting the environment.

One of the ways IALA achieves this is by establishing technical committees which bring together experts from more than 80 countries around the world. The work of these committees is to develop recommendations on technologies and practices which are available in publications such as IALA Recommendations and Guidelines.

IALA is chiefly known for its buoyage system. As early as 1976, there were more than 30 dissimilar buoyage systems in use throughout the world. To avoid confusion and help create safe navigation to mariners of different regions IALA have created a worldwide buoyage system.

## Region A & Region B

To minimise the number of changes to existing systems and to meet conflicting requirements IALA decided to create a system divided into two regions. The region followed is dependent on geographical location:

**Region A:** Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, the Gulf and some Asian countries

**Region B:** North, Central & South America, Japan, North & South Korea and the Philippines

## What Region am I in?

Refer to Appendix A on page 7 to view map of IALA Buoyage Region A & Region B.

## Types of Marks

The different types of marks used in the pilotage of vessels at sea are easily distinguished by their shape, colour, topmark by day and the colour and rhythm of the light by night. The five types of marks are:

**Lateral Marks:** indicate the edge of a channel

**Cardinal Marks:** indicate the position of a hazard and the direction of safe water

**Isolated Danger Marks:** indicate a hazard to shipping

**Safe Water Marks:** indicates the end of a channel and deep, safe water is ahead

**Special Marks:** indicate an area or feature such as speed restrictions or mooring area

Lateral Marks are the only marks that differ by region, the other four marks are common to both Region A and Region B.

Refer to Appendix B on page 8 to view an example of the IALA Buoyage System for Region A.

Refer to Appendix C on page 9 to view an example of the IALA Buoyage System for Region B.



Above: Sealite SLB1250 Navigation Buoy, Manila, Philippines

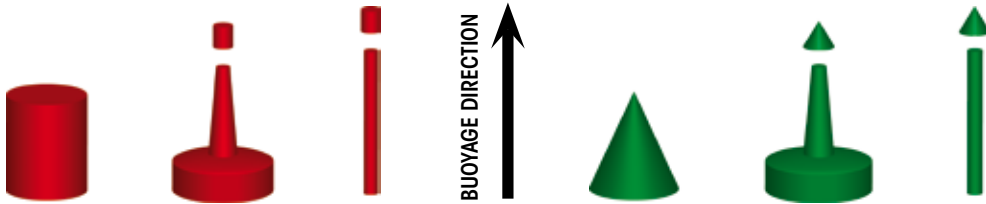
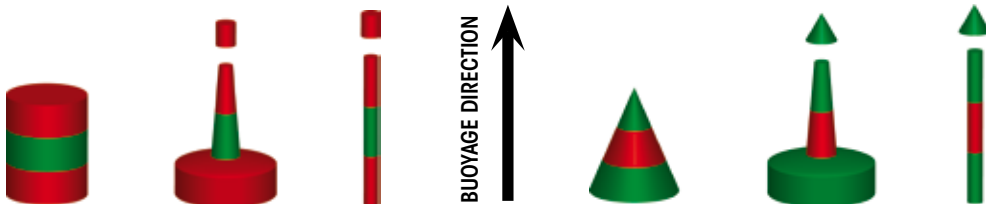
## Lateral Marks

Lateral marks define a channel and indicate the port and starboard sides of the navigation route to be followed into a waterway such as a harbour, river or estuary from seaward. The vessel should keep port marks to its left and keep starboard marks to its right.

If lateral marks are unable to be represented by a can or cone shaped buoy they should carry the appropriate topmark.

At the point where a channel divides, a modified lateral mark is used to indicate a 'preferred' channel (often a deep channel suitable for heavy commercial vessels) on one side and a secondary channel on the other. A preferred channel is indicated by red and green horizontal bands on the lateral marker. If a vessel wants to use the 'preferred' channel they observe the top colour of the mark while a vessel wishing to use the secondary channel observes the bottom colour. See 'Preferred Channel to Starboard/Port' in Table 1.1 and Table 1.2.

**Table 1.1 LATERAL MARKS: REGION A**

	Port Hand Marks	Starboard Hand Marks
Colour	Red	Green
Buoy Shape	Cylindrical (can), pillar or spar	Conical, pillar or spar
Topmark (if any)	Single red cylinder (can)	Single green cone, point upwards
Light Colour (when fitted)	Red	Green
Light Rhythm (when fitted)	Any apart from composite group flashing (2 + 1)	Any apart from composite group flashing (2 + 1)
		
	Preferred Channel to Starboard	Preferred Channel to Port
Colour	Red with one broad green horizontal band	Green with one broad red horizontal band
Buoy Shape	Cylindrical (can), pillar or spar	Conical, pillar or spar
Topmark (if any)	Single red cylinder (can)	Single green cone, point upward
Light Colour (when fitted)	Red	Green
Light Rhythm (when fitted)	Composite group flashing (2 + 1)	Composite group flashing (2 + 1)
		



## Sealite Buoys

Sealite Marine buoys are manufactured on-site from rotationally-moulded, UV-stabilised polyethylene, and are designed to offer a low maintenance, high visibility solution to marine navigation.

Some of the benefits polyethylene buoys have to offer are increased impact and puncture resistance, lightweight for ease of deployment, low maintenance with no painting required, and they are eco-friendly and recyclable.

Sealite's buoy products are available in a wide range of configurations and sizes, and can be economically shipped worldwide.

Above: Sealite Trident-3000 Ocean Buoy, Damman Port, Saudi Arabia

**Table 1.2 LATERAL MARKS: REGION B**

Port Hand Marks		Starboard Hand Marks	
Colour	Green	Red	
Buoy Shape	Cylindrical (can), pillar or spar	Conical, pillar or spar	
Topmark (if any)	Single green cylinder (can)	Single red cone, point upwards	
Light Colour (when fitted)	Green	Red	
Light Rhythm (when fitted)	Any apart from composite group flashing (2 + 1)	Any apart from composite group flashing (2 + 1)	
Preferred Channel to Starboard		Preferred Channel to Port	
Colour	Green with one broad red horizontal band	Red with one broad green horizontal band	
Buoy Shape	Cylindrical (can), pillar or spar	Conical, pillar or spar	
Topmark (if any)	Single green cylinder (can)	Single red cone, point upward	
Light Colour (when fitted)	Green	Red	
Light Rhythm (when fitted)	Composite group flashing (2 + 1)	Composite group flashing (2 + 1)	

## Sealite Lanterns

Sealite offers a complete range of LED marine lanterns. Sealite marine lanterns are designed to be maintenance free and have a service life of up to 12 years. With visible ranges of 1nm (1.8km) to more than 12nm+ (22.2km) the units are ideal for applications including aquaculture, hazard & perimeter marking, and general marine applications. Each product incorporates the latest in LED, solar, battery, electronics & moulding technology, and is designed to meet IALA recommendations for aids to navigation.

Contact your Sealite representative to find a lantern suitable for your application.

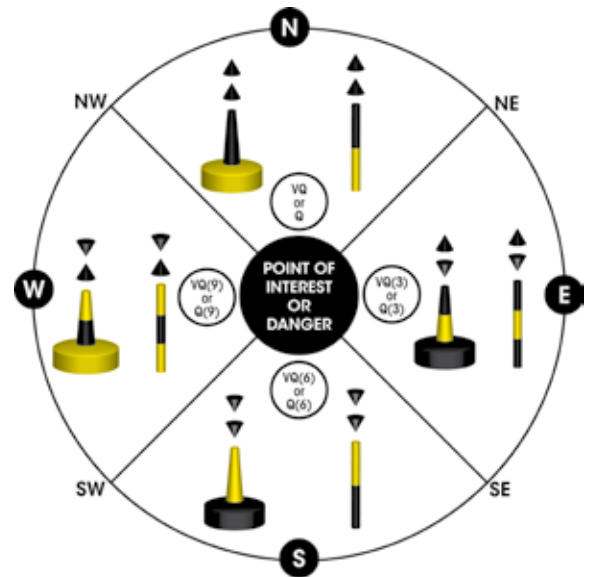
# Cardinal Marks

A cardinal mark is used to signify a danger and show where the safest water can be found. Cardinal marks indicate the direction of safety as a compass direction relative to the mark. A cardinal mark is named after the quadrant in which it is placed. Due to the unique way cardinal marks use the points of a compass to signal safety it makes them meaningful regardless of the direction of the approaching vessel.

Cardinal marks have distinctive black and yellow markings and topmarks.

Cardinal marks can be used to show the following:

- The deepest water on an area on the named side of the mark
- The safe side on which to pass a danger
- Draw attention to a feature in a channel such as a bend, junction or end of a shoal



**Table 2.1 CARDINAL MARKS: REGION A & REGION B**

	North Cardinal Mark	East Cardinal Mark
Colour	Black above yellow	Black with a single broad horizontal yellow band
Buoy Shape	Pillar or spar	Pillar or spar
Topmark	2 black cones, one above the other, pointing upward	2 black cones, one above the other, base to base
Light Colour (when fitted)	White	White
Light Rhythm (when fitted)	VQ or Q	VQ(3) every 5 seconds or Q(3) every 10 seconds
	South Cardinal Mark	West Cardinal Mark
Colour	Yellow above black	Yellow with a single broad horizontal black band
Buoy Shape	Pillar or spar	Pillar or spar
Topmark	2 black cones, one above the other, points downward	2 black cones, one above the other, point to point
Light Colour (when fitted)	White	White
Light Rhythm (when fitted)	VQ(6) + Long flash every 10 seconds or Q(6) + Long flash every 15 seconds	VQ(9) every 10 seconds or Q(9) every 15 seconds

## Q & VQ Light Rhythms

Q and VQ refer to the rhythm of a flashing light. Q is a quick flashing light and VQ is the symbol for a very quick flashing light.

Q = Flash frequency is at least 50 or 60 flashes per minute (1.2 or 1 flashes per second)

VQ = Flash frequency is at least 100 or 120 flashes per minute (0.6 or 0.5 flashes per second)

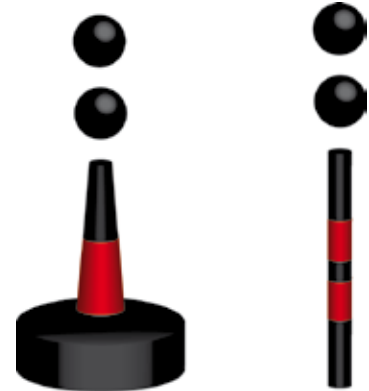
## Isolated Danger Marks

An isolated danger mark is used to indicate a hazard to shipping such as a submerged rock or wreck which has navigable water all around it. It is erected or moored above the hazard.

The double sphere topmark is an important feature and needs to be visible by day. The topmarks should be as large as possible with the spheres clearly separated.

**Table 3.1 ISOLATED DANGER MARKS: REGION A & REGION B**

Isolated Danger Mark	
Colour	Black with one or more broad horizontal red bands
Buoy Shape	Optional, but not conflicting with lateral marks; pillar or spar preferred
Topmark	2 black spheres, one above the other
Light Colour (when fitted)	White
Light Rhythm (when fitted)	Group flashing (2)

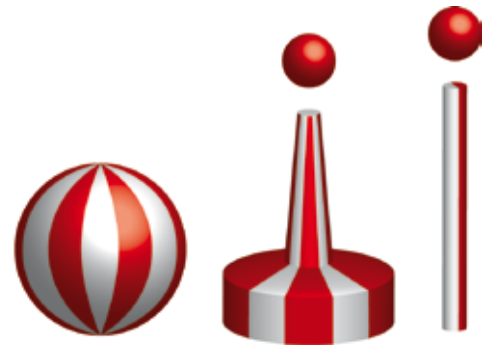


## Safe Water Marks

Safe water marks indicate there is navigable water all around the mark including the end of a channel or mid channel, however, this mark does not mark a danger. They are the only mark to have vertical stripes.

**Table 4.1 SAFE WATER MARKS: REGION A & REGION B**

Safe Water Mark	
Colour	Red and white vertical stripes
Buoy Shape	Spherical; pillar or spar with spherical topmark
Topmark (if any)	Single red sphere
Light Colour (when fitted)	White
Light Rhythm (when fitted)	Isophase, occulting, one long flash every 10 seconds or Morse "A"

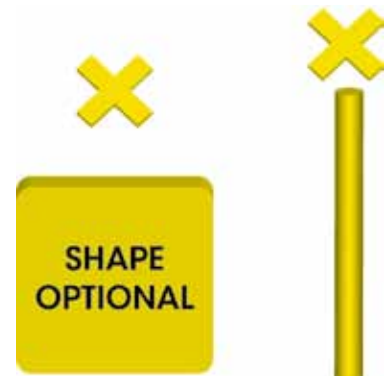


## Special Marks

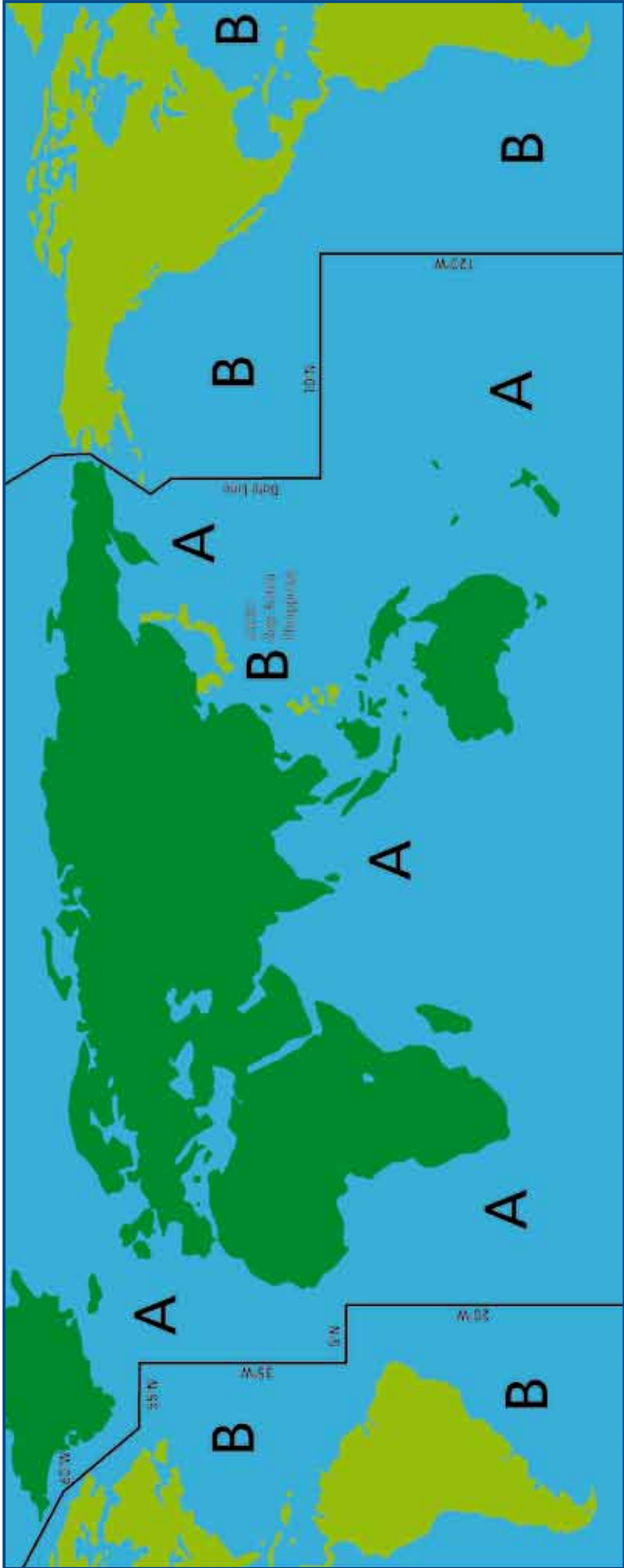
Special marks do not usually assist navigation but are used to indicate a feature such as recreation zones, speed limits, mooring areas or cable and pipe lines including outfall sewerage pipes.

**Table 5.1 SPECIAL MARKS: REGION A & REGION B**

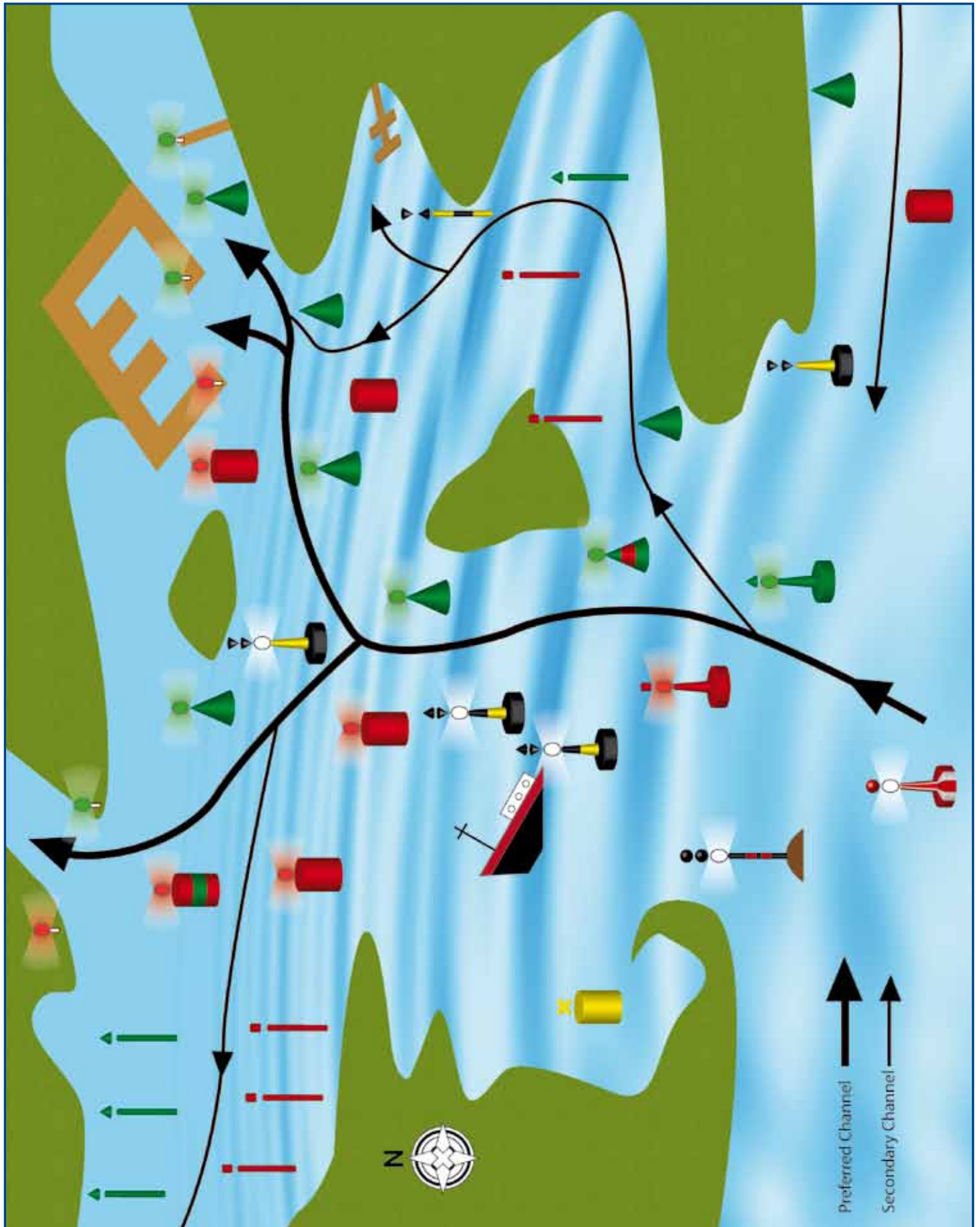
Special Mark	
Colour	Yellow
Buoy Shape	Optional but not conflicting with navigational marks
Topmark (if any)	Single yellow 'X' shape (St Andrew's Cross)
Light Colour (when fitted)	Yellow
Light Rhythm (when fitted)	Any other than those described in cardinal, isolated danger and safe water marks



Appendix A: IALA Buoyage Region A & Region B

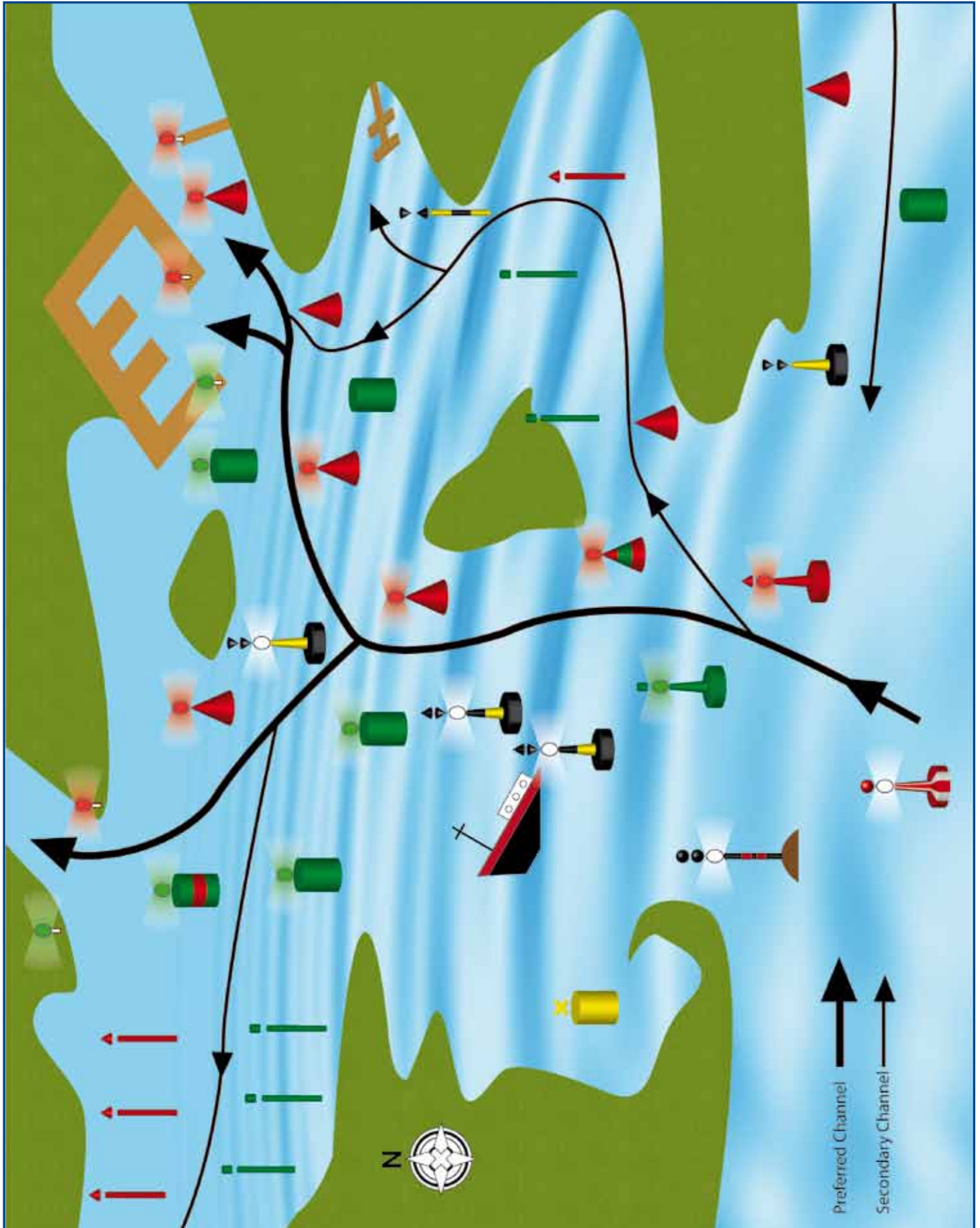


# Appendix B: IALA Buoyage System Example, Region A





# Appendix C: IALA Buoyage System Example, Region B



The information contained in this publication is advisory only. Please contact your local authority for rules and regulations particular to your region. For further information about IALA and the IALA Maritime Buoyage System please visit [www.iala-aism.org](http://www.iala-aism.org)

## References:

IALA Maritime Buoyage System, IALA Publications, viewed 3 May 2010, <http://www.iala-aism.org>

All Sealite products are manufactured to exacting standards under strict quality control procedures.

Sealite's commitment to research and development, investing in modern equipment and advanced manufacturing procedures has made the company an industry leader in aids to marine navigation.

Sealite solar LED lanterns have an IP rating of IP68, the highest water/rust/dust proof rating available. Don't trust anything less than an IP68 rated product.

By choosing Sealite you can rest assured you have chosen the very best.



# Sealite<sup>®</sup>

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Nautilus buoy with SLC420 solar marine lantern  
Port Phillip Bay, Australia



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