

SUB-COMMITTEE ON NAVIGATION,
COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND
RESCUE
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Agenda item 19

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**UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF PROVISIONS OF IMO SAFETY, SECURITY,
ENVIRONMENT, FACILITATION, LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION-RELATED
CONVENTIONS**

Proposed interpretation of "the view of the sea surface" in SOLAS regulation V/22

Submitted by IACS

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document proposes a unified interpretation of SOLAS regulation V/22 in respect of "the view of the sea surface" from the conning position

Strategic direction, if applicable: 7

Output: 7.1

Action to be taken: Paragraph 6

Related documents: None

Introduction

1 SOLAS regulation V/22 provides requirements for "Navigation bridge visibility"; its paragraph 1.2 provides the requirement for blind sectors caused by cargo, cargo gear and other obstructions outside of the wheelhouse forward of the beam obstructing "the view of the sea surface" as seen from the conning position.

2 In addition, SOLAS regulation V/22.1.1 provides "the view of the sea surface from the conning position shall not be obscured by more than two ship lengths, or 500 m, whichever is the less, forward of the bow to 10° on either side under all conditions of draught, trim and deck cargo" as the standard of "the view of the sea surface" within the range forward of the bow to 10° on either side from the conning position.

Discussion

3 IACS considers that "the view of the sea surface" outside of the range forward of the bow to 10° on either side from the main conning position and obstructions, which cause blind sectors within that range, are open to interpretation.

4 In some cases, the visibility obstructed by such structures, which have the height on or over the straight line connecting A and B shown in the figure below, is regarded as a blind sector regardless of whether obstructions are located in the range forward of the bow to 10° on either side from the conning position or not.

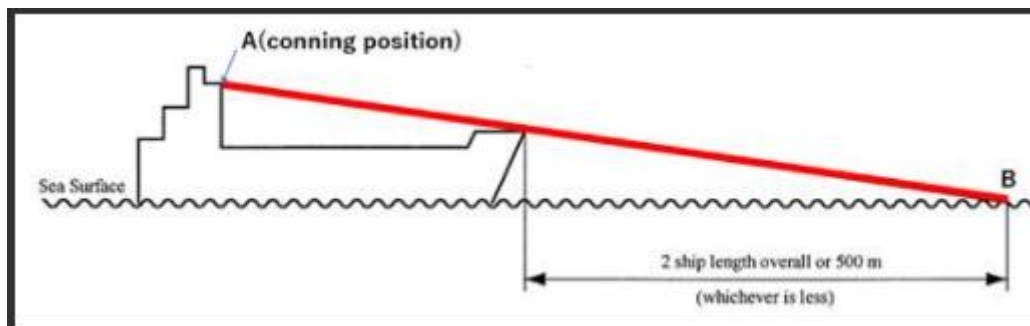


Figure 1: The view of the sea surface from the conning position

Proposal

5 To address the above issue, IACS has prepared a draft unified interpretation, which is contained in the annex to this document, for the consideration of the Sub-Committee.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

6 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the proposal in paragraph 5 and the annex to this document, and take action as appropriate.

ANNEX

DRAFT UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF SOLAS REGULATION V/22

Object to be regarded as an obstruction outside the range forward of the bow to 10° on either side from the conning position

SOLAS regulation V/22 reads as follows:

"1 Ships of not less than 55 m in length, as defined in regulation 2.4, constructed on or after 1 July 1998, shall meet the following requirements:

- .1 The view of the sea surface from the conning position shall not be obscured by more than two ship lengths, or 500 m, whichever is the less, forward of the bow to 10° on either side under all conditions of draught, trim and deck cargo;
- .2 No blind sector caused by cargo, cargo gear or other obstructions outside of the wheelhouse forward of the beam which obstructs the view of the sea surface as seen from the conning position, shall exceed 10°. The total arc of blind sectors shall not exceed 20°. The clear sectors between blind sectors shall be at least 5°. However, in the view described in .1, each individual blind sector shall not exceed 5°;..."

Interpretation

An object outside of the wheelhouse which creates a blind sector, and thereby obstructs the forward view of the sea surface outside of the range sector forward of the bow to 10° on either side from the conning position, is any object located on or above the straight line connecting A and B (see figure 1), where A is the conning position and B is a point at two ship lengths, or 500 m, whichever is the less, measured from the ship's bow.

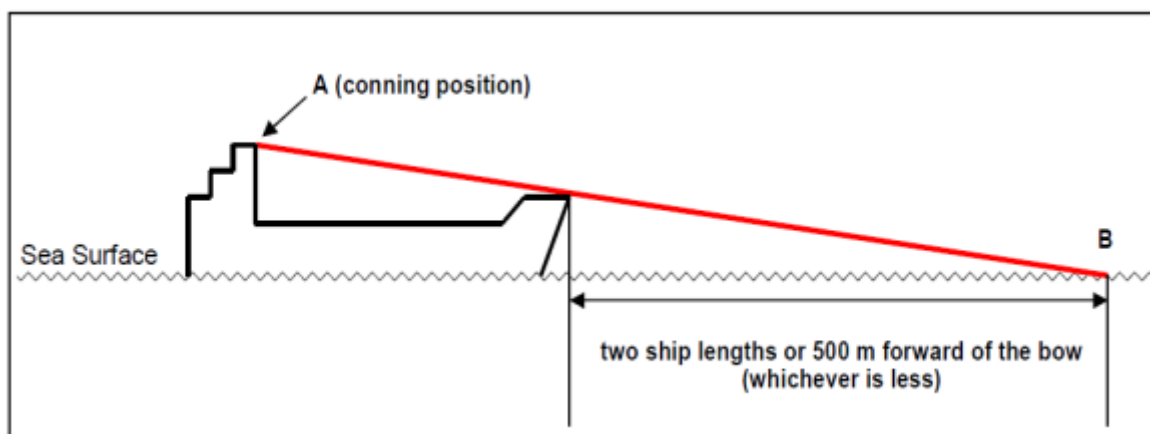


Figure 1: The straight-line connecting A and B

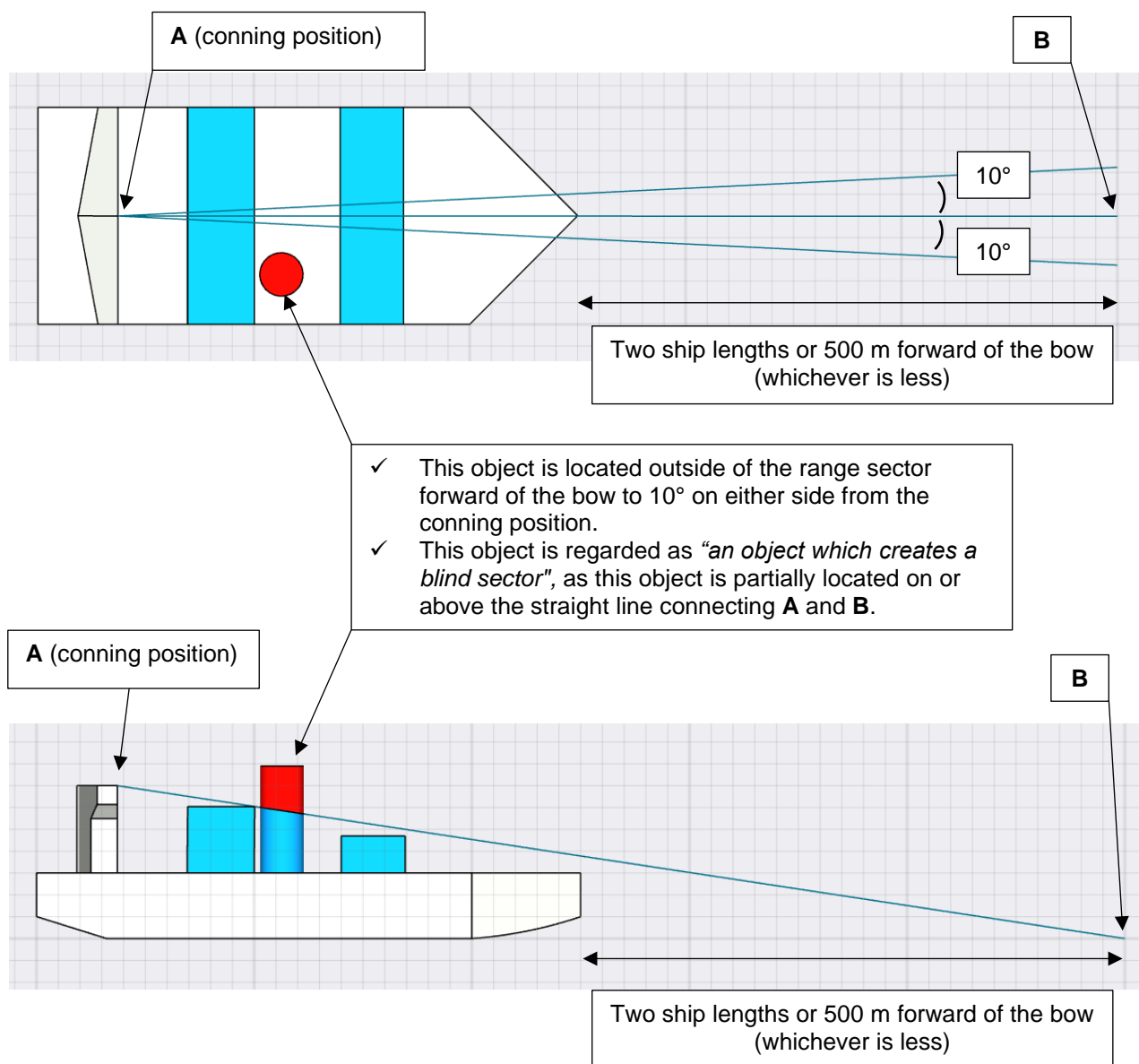


Figure 2: Example of the object regarded as "an object which creates a blind sector" (painted **RED**) and example of object NOT regarded as "an object which creates a blind sector" (painted **BLUE**)