



LIFE SAVING SIGNALS

The signals illustrated in this leaflet are those to be used by any ship or person in distress when communicating with search and rescue units. They have been agreed internationally for this purpose and it is important that you are familiar with them to ensure they are correctly used in distress situations.

The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS), as amended, in Regulation 29 of Chapter V requires you to have access to this table. You are advised to keep a copy on board, or if this is not practicable, at least to study the table before you go boating.

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/live-saving-signals>

MCA/099

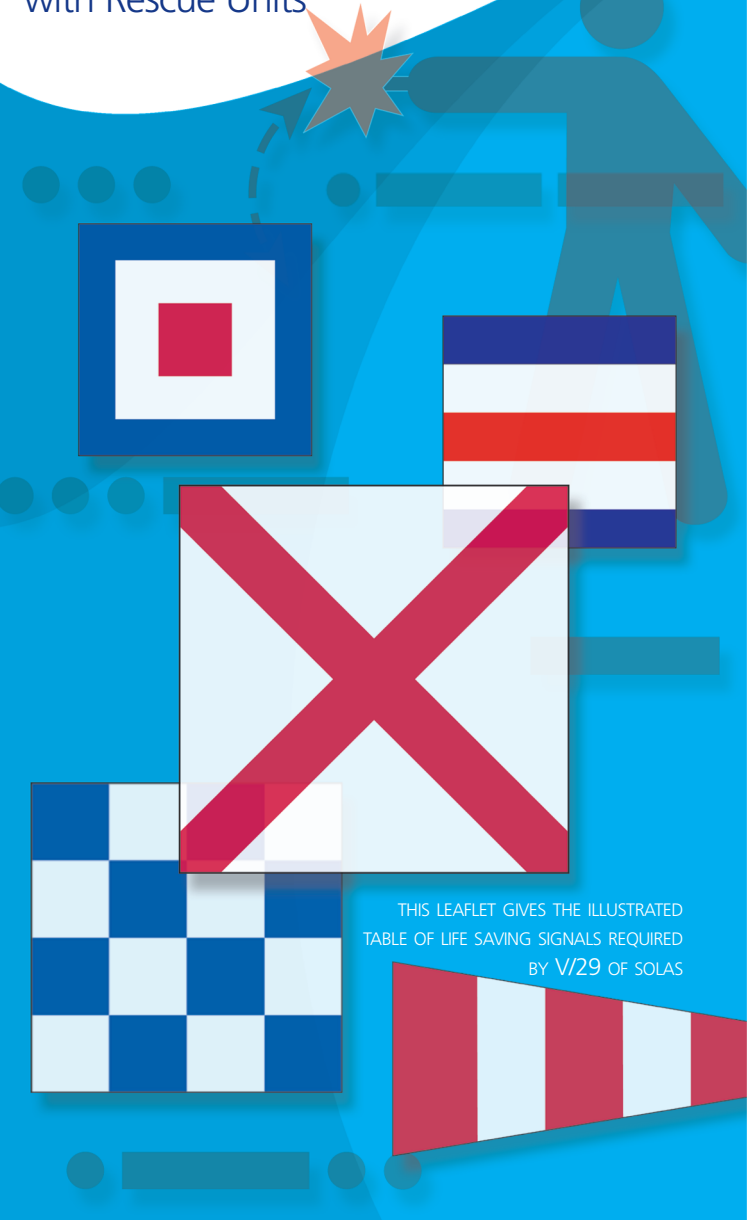
August 2018



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

LIFE SAVING SIGNALS

For use by Ships, Aircraft or Persons
in Distress when communicating
with Rescue Units



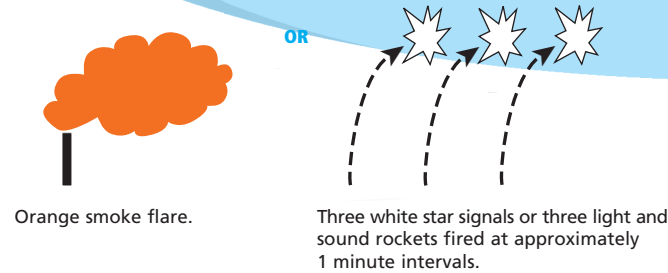
THIS LEAFLET GIVES THE ILLUSTRATED
TABLE OF LIFE SAVING SIGNALS REQUIRED
BY V/29 OF SOLAS

LIFE SAVING SIGNALS

To be used by Ships, Aircraft or Persons in Distress, when communicating with life-saving stations, maritime rescue units and aircraft engaged in search and rescue operations.

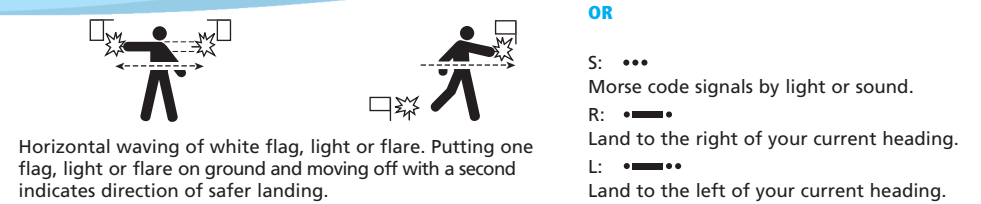
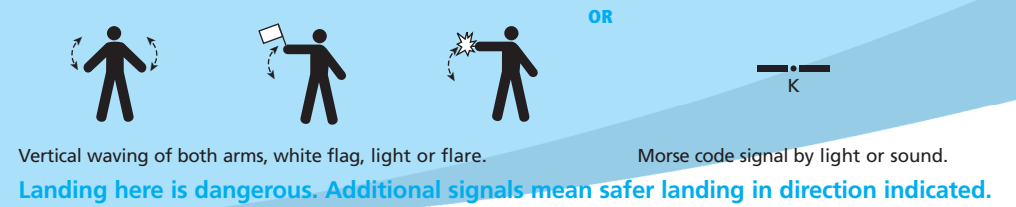
Search and Rescue Unit Replies

You have been seen, assistance will be given as soon as possible.



Shore to Ship Signals

Safe to land here.



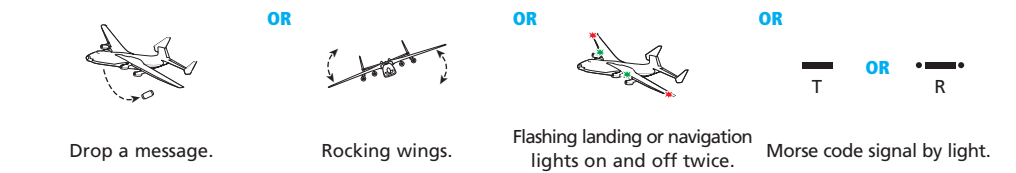
Surface to Air Signals

Message	ICAO/IMO Visual Signals
Require assistance	V
Require medical assistance	X
No or negative	N
Yes or affirmative	Y
Proceeding in this direction	↑

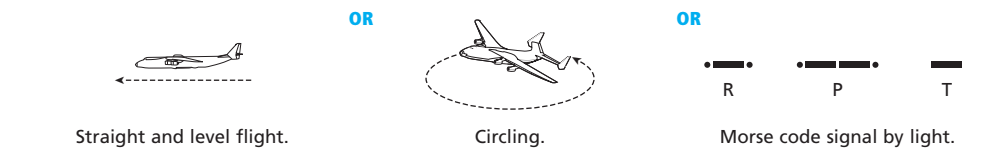
Note: Use International Code of Signals by means of lights or flags or by laying out the symbol on the deck or ground with items which have a high contrast to the background.

Air to Surface Replies

Message Understood.

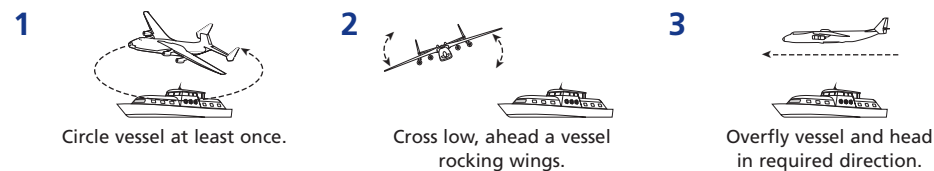


Message Not Understood – Repeat.



Air to Surface Direction Signals

Sequence of 3 manoeuvres meaning proceed to this direction.



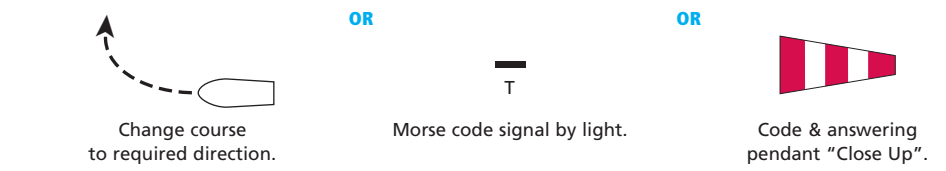
Your assistance is no longer required.



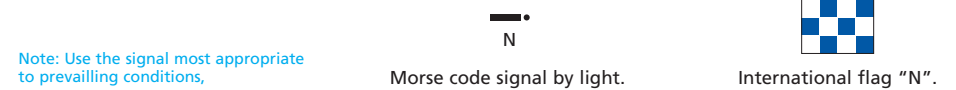
Note: As a non preferred alternative to rocking wings, varying engine tone or volume may be used.

Surface to Air Replies

Message Understood – I will comply.



I am unable to comply.



Note: Use the signal most appropriate to prevailing conditions.