



























International marine signal flags

These flags can be used for signalling at sea either individually or, when used in combination, to create special messages. The relevant International Morse Code characters are also shown.

Single letter signs

A  Alpha .. -	I have a diver down; keep well clear at slow speed.	N  November - .	No.
B  Bravo - - - -	I am taking in, or discharging, or carrying dangerous goods.	O  Oscar - - - -	Man overboard.
C  Charlie - - - -	Yes.	P  Papa - . - -	Vessel about to put to sea. By fishing vessels: my nets are caught fast.
D  Delta - . . -	Keep clear of me: I am manoeuvring with difficulty.	Q  Quebec - - - -	Ship meets health regs; request clearance into port.
E  Echo - . . .	I am altering course to starboard.	R  Romeo - . . .	OK.
F  Foxtrot - . . .	I am disabled; communicate with me.	S  Sierra - . . .	My engines are going astern.
G  Golf - - - -	I require a pilot. When made by fishing boats: I am hauling in nets.	T  Tango - - - -	Keep clear; engaged in trawling
H  Hotel - . . .	I have a pilot on board.	U  Uniform - . . .	You are running into danger.
I  India - . . .	I am altering my course to portboard.	V  Victor - . . .	I require assistance.
J  Juliet - . . .	I am on fire and have (or loose) dangerous cargo; keep well clear of me.	W  Whisky - . . .	I require medical assistance.
K  Kilo - . . .	I wish to communicate with you.	X  X-Ray - . . .	Stop carrying out your intentions and watch for my signals.
L  Lima - . . .	You should stop your vessel instantly.	Y  Yankee - . . .	I am dragging my anchor.
M  Mike - - - -	My vessel is stopped and making no way through the water.	Z  Zulu - - - -	I require a tug.

Double letter signs

AE  Alpha-Echo - . / - .	I have to leave my vessel.	KP  Kilo-Papa - - / - - - -	Tow me to the nearest harbour or anchorage.
AF  Alpha-Foxtrot - . / - . . .	I do not intend to abandon my vessel.	NA  November-Alpha - . / - . - - - -	Navigation is forbidden.
AG  Alpha-Golf - . / - - - -	You should leave your vessel as soon as possible.	NC  November-Charlie - . / - . - . - - - -	I am in distress and require immediate assistance.
AH  Alpha-Hotel - . / -	You should not leave your vessel.	PM  Papa-Mike - . / - . - . - - - -	Follow my wake.
AL  Alpha-Lima - . / -	I have a doctor on board.	QQ  Quebec-Quebec - - / - - - - - - - - - -	I require health clearance.
ED  Echo-Delta - . . - / - . . - - - - -	Your distress signals are understood.	SM  Sierra-Mike - . . - / - . - . - - - - - -	I am testing speed.
FO  Foxtrot-Oscar - . . . - / - . . . - - - - -	I will stay near you.	UY  Uniform-Yankee - . . . - / - . . . - - - - - - - -	I am training: keep clear of me.
JG  Juliet-Golf - . . . - / - . . . - - - - -	I am aground. I am in a dangerous situation.	VF  Victor-Foxtrot - . . . - / - . . . - - - - -	You should hoist your identity signal.
KN  Kilo-November - - . - / - . . . - - - - -	I cannot tow you.	YG  Yankee-Golf - . . . - / - . . . - - - - -	You appear not to be complying with the traffic separation scheme.

Substitute Pennants



Numeric Pennants



B-C-D-E-G-H-I-R-S and T signals can be transmitted by sound only in accordance with the IRPCS. K-L-R and S signals have a particular significances when they are employed as discharging signals to guide the vessels with crews or people in distress.

