

Rule 6 – Safe Speed

Every vessel shall **at all times** proceed at a safe speed so that she can **take proper and effective action** to avoid collision and be **stopped within a distance appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions**. In determining a safe speed the following factors shall be among those taken into account:

(a) By all vessels:

- (i) the state of **visibility**;
- (ii) the traffic **density** including concentrations of fishing vessels or any other vessels;
- (iii) the **manoeuvrability** of the vessel with special reference to stopping distance and turning ability in the prevailing conditions;
- (iv) at night the **presence of background light** such as from shore lights or from back scatter of her own lights;
- (v) the state of **wind, sea and current**, and the proximity of navigational hazards;
- (vi) the **draught** in relation to the available depth of water.

(b) Additionally, by vessels with operational radar:

- (i) the **characteristics**, efficiency and limitations of the radar equipment;
- (ii) any **constraints** imposed by the radar range scale in use;
- (iii) the effect on radar detection of the **sea state, weather and other sources of interference**;
- (iv) the possibility that **small vessels**, ice and other floating objects may not be detected by radar at an adequate range;
- (v) the **number, location and movement** of vessels detected by radar;
- (vi) the more exact assessment of the **visibility that may be possible when radar is used** to determine the range of vessels or other objects in the vicinity.