

Rule 7 – Risk of Collision

(a) Every vessel shall use **all available means** appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions to determine if risk of collision exists. If there is **any doubt such risk shall be deemed to exist**.

(b) **Proper use** shall be made of radar equipment if fitted and operational, including long range scanning to obtain **early warning of risk of collision** and radar plotting or equivalent **systematic observation** of detected objects.

(c) **Assumptions shall not be made on the basis of scanty information**, especially scanty radar information.

(d) In determining if risk of collision exists the following considerations shall be among those taken into account:

(i) Such risk shall be deemed to exist **if the compass bearing of an approaching vessel does not appreciably change**;

(ii) such risk **may sometimes exist** even when an appreciable bearing change is evident, particularly **when approaching a very large vessel or a tow or when approaching a vessel at close range**.