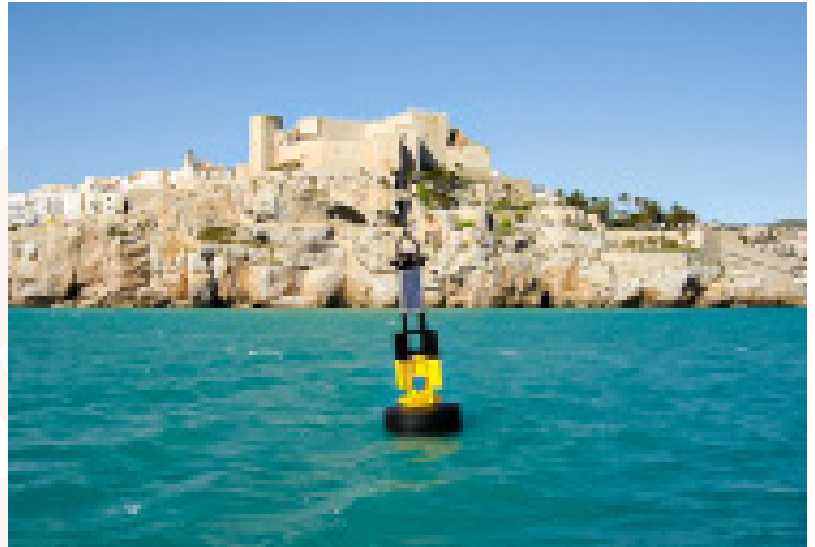




Within the Maritime Buoyage System, there are **six types of marks**, which can be distinguished by the mariner by identifiable characteristics. **One of these characteristics is the colour, comprising both SURFACE COLOUR and LIGHT COLOUR.**

Therefore, correct definition and choosing of colour is crucial in Aids to Navigation.

The IALA MBS uses 6 Surface Colours: Red, Yellow, White, Green, Blue and Black. The same colours, without including black, are used for Light Colours.



Red

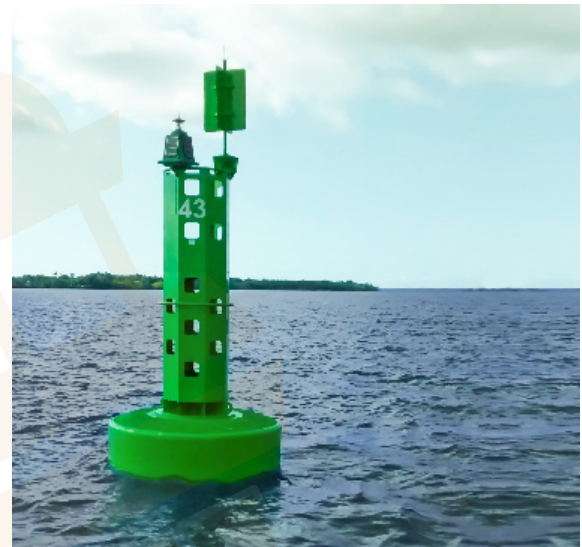
Red colour is used in Lateral Marks, both in the Region A and Region B systems. Red also is used in combination with white for safe water marks.



YELLOW AND WHITE

Yellow is used both as a single colour in special marks and in combination with black on cardinal marks. White is used in combination with red for safe water marks. Discrimination between yellow and white is not practicable when they subtend very small

visual angles, so they should not be considered as separate colours except for close viewing.



GREEN

Green colour is used in Lateral Marks, both in the Region A and Region B systems.

BLUE

Blue is used on new danger marks in combination with yellow. As a single colour, on inland waterways, at close range, blue may prove a useful colour, but at sea and at distance is unlikely to be recognized.

BLACK

Black colour is used in combination with red and yellow and has proven to be useful when colour combinations are required.

ORANGE

Orange is not used on the MBS, but, orange is probably the best ordinary colour for conspicuity against the sea, and it should preferably be reserved for those objects for which detection in the water is more important than recognition of their colours (as can be confused with yellow or red). Therefore, it can be used in items of emergency equipment, such as life jackets and life rafts.

MARINE SIGNAL LIGHT COLOURS



WHITE LIGHT

White is widely used in Safe Water marks, Cardinal marks, Isolated Danger marks and can also be used in the navigable sectors of sector lights, lighthouses and leading lights.



RED LIGHT

Red colour is used in Lateral Marks, both in the Region A and Region B systems and can also be used in sector lights, leading lights and lighthouses.



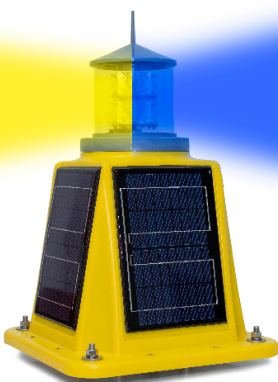
YELLOW LIGHT

Yellow is used in Special marks and New Dangers marks (in combination with blue light). It can also be used in leading lights if convenient.



GREEN LIGHT

Green light colour is used in Lateral Marks, both in the Region A and Region B systems and can also be used in sector lights, leading lights and lighthouses.



BLUE LIGHT

Blue light is used on new danger marks in combination with yellow.

As a single light colour sometimes is used on port interior markings, to mark the final point of jettys and other structures, but this use is not established by the MBS and should not be considered a Aid to Navigation.