

NOTES ON RULE 10 of COLREG 1972

- (b) Vessel using a traffic separation scheme (TSS) shall proceed in the appropriate traffic lane in the general direction of traffic flow for that lane, shall keep clear of traffic separation lines or zones, and normally join or leave a traffic lane at its termination, but when joining or leaving from either side shall do so at as small an angle to the general direction of traffic flow as practicable.
- (c) Vessels shall avoid crossing traffic lanes, but if obliged to do so shall cross on a heading as nearly as practicable at right angles to the general direction of traffic flow
- (d) A vessel shall not use an inshore traffic zone when she can safely use the appropriate traffic lane within the adjacent traffic separation scheme. However, vessels of less than 20 metres in length, sailing vessels and fishing vessels may use the inshore traffic zone, as well as vessels en route to or from destination within the inshore traffic zone, or to avoid immediate danger.
- (e) Vessels other than crossing vessels or vessels joining or leaving a lane shall not enter a separation zone or cross a separation line except in cases of emergency to avoid immediate danger or to engage in fishing within a separation zone.
- (f) Use extreme caution when navigating near the terminations of the TSS.
- (g) So far as practicable, avoid anchoring in a TSS or in areas near its terminations.
- (h) Vessels not using a TSS shall avoid it by as wide a margin as is practicable.
- (i) Fishing vessels shall not impede passage of any vessel following a traffic lane.
- (j) Vessels of less than 20 metres in length or a sailing vessel shall not impede the safe passage of a power-driven vessel following a traffic lane.
- (k) Vessels restricted in ability to manoeuvre when engaged in an operation for the maintenance of safety of navigation in a traffic separation scheme is exempted from complying with this rule to the extent necessary to carry out the operation.
- (l) Vessels restricted in ability to manoeuvre when engaged in laying, servicing or picking up of a submarine cable, within a traffic separation scheme, is exempted from complying with this rule to the extent necessary to carry out the operation.

For detailed guidance, please refer to the complete COLREG 1972.

WARNINGS

1. A deep-water route forming part of the north-eastbound traffic lane is established to the north-west of the Sandettie Bank, and masters considering the use of this route should take into account the proximity of traffic using the south-westbound lane.
 2. The main traffic lane for north-eastbound traffic lies to the south-east of the Sandettie Bank and shall be followed by all such ships as can safely navigate therein having regard to their draught.
 3. In the area of the deep-water route east of the separation line, ships are recommended to avoid overtaking.
 4. Vessels using the traffic lanes must comply with Rule 10 of the Collision Regulations, but they are not thereby given any right of way over crossing vessels. When risk of collision is deemed to exist, the Rules fully apply, particularly Rules 15 and 19(d), which are specific relevance in the crossing situation.
 5. The F3 buoy is in an area of heavy crossing traffic (11000 crossing movements per year). All vessels should avoid the area within 500 metres of the buoy.
 6. English Inshore Traffic Zone (EITZ), vessels considering the use of the EITZ for navigation purposes should refer to Rule 10(d) for guidance. There are no exceptions to the rule and permission cannot be granted by Dover Coastguard CNIS.
- Important:** Ships passing through the Dover Strait must listen to the VHF broadcasts by the Channel Navigation Information Service on Channel 11 at hh:40 each hour, which provide information concerning traffic, navigation, and visibility conditions in the Strait.
- Important:** On occasions of poor visibility in the Dover Strait TSS VHF broadcasts are transmitted on Channel 11 at hh:55. Vessel encountering poor visibility of less than 2 miles are requested to call Dover Coastguard with information.