

# **Navigational Light Characteristics**

Odessa 2009

# Light symbols

- What is this Chart abbreviation for?

**F.**

Continuous fixed light.

# Light symbols

- What is this Chart abbreviation for?

**Fl.**

- Flashing. Light shorter than dark.

# Light symbols

- What is this Chart abbreviation for?

Iso.

- Isophase. Equal amounts of light and dark.

# Light symbols

- What is this Chart abbreviation for?

Gp.Fl.(3)

- Group flashing. In this case, groups of three.

# Light symbols

- What is this Chart abbreviation for?

Occ.

- Occulting. Dark shorter than light.

# Light symbols

- What is this Chart abbreviation for?

**Gp.Fl.(2+1)**

- Composite group flashing.

# Light symbols

- What is this Chart abbreviation for?

**Qk.Fl.**

Quick flashing 50 or 60 per minute.

**Where are you likely to see this type of light?**

**Cardinal Marks - North/South etc**



- What is this Chart abbreviation for?

**V.Qk.Fl.**

Very Quick flashing 100 or 120 per minute.

**Where are you likely to see this type of light?**

**Cardinal Marks**





# Light symbols

- What is this Chart abbreviation for?

Gp.Occ.(2)

- Group occulting. In this case, groups of two.

# Characteristics

- The period of a light is the length of time taken (in seconds) to complete one full cycle. E.g. 10s is a period of ten seconds.
- The range (in nautical miles) at which a light can be seen in good visibility is denoted by a capital **M**. E.g. 25M indicates a range of twenty five nautical miles.
- The height (in metres) of a light above 'mean high water springs' (MHWS) is denoted by a small **m**. E.g. 15m indicates a height of fifteen metres.
- The colour of a light is usually denoted by the first letter. e.g. **R** is red, **G** is green.

# Example

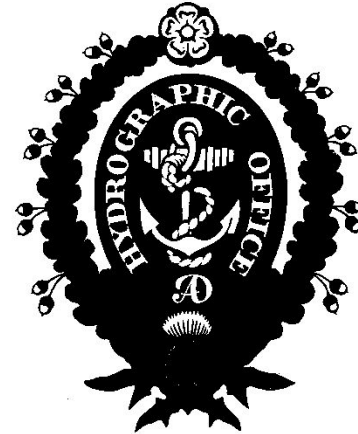
'Gp.Fl.(3)20s 15m 25M'

What does this mean?

- a white light flashing in groups of three
- every twenty seconds
- at a height of fifteen metres above MHWS
- that could be seen at a distance of twenty five nautical miles in good visibility.

# Light symbols

- Use the booklet of symbols to learn all information available on charts.
- Practise determining what a light will look like before you see it.
- Work out how early you can expect to see a light – how?
- Height of light – range + horizon of vessel



## **SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED ON ADMIRALTY CHARTS**

Chart 5011  
(INT 1) Edition 1 - 1991

Thank you

**Any questions?**