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. 10**s** 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

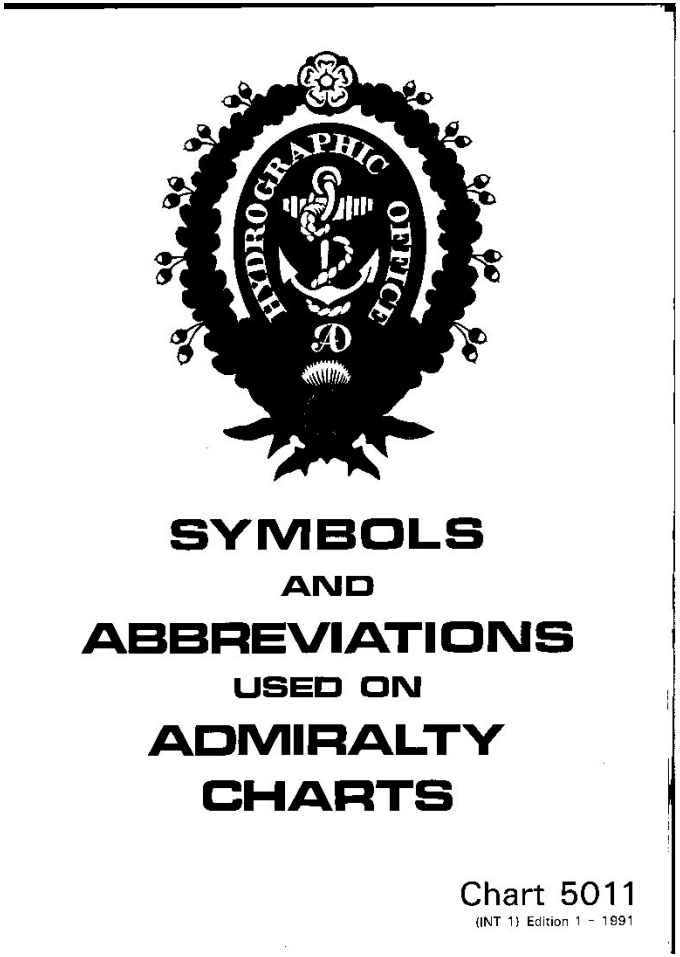
'Gp.Fl.(3)20s 15m 25M‘

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



Thank you

Any questions?