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AUTHORITY: 14 U.S.C. 83, 85; 43 U.S.C. 1333; 49 CFR 1.46.

Subpart 66.01—Aids to Navigation Other than Federal or State

SOURCE: CGFR 68–152, 33 FR 19816, Dec. 27, 1968, unless otherwise noted.

§ 66.01–1 Basic provisions.

- (a) No person, public body or instrumentality not under the control of the Commandant, exclusive of the Armed Forces, shall establish and maintain, discontinue, change or transfer ownership of any aid to maritime navigation, without first obtaining permission to do so from the Commandant.
- (b) For the purposes of this subpart, the term private aids to navigation includes all marine aids to navigation operated in the navigable waters of the § 66.01–3 33 CFR Ch. I (7–1–98 Edition) United States other than those operated by the Federal Government (part 62 of this subchapter) or those operated in State waters for private aids to navigation (subpart 66.05).
- (c) Coast Guard authorization of a private aid to navigation does not authorize any invasion of private rights, nor grant any exclusive privileges, nor does it obviate the necessity of complying with any other Federal, State or local laws or regulations.
- (d) With the exception of radar beacons (recons) and shore based radar stations, operation of electronic aids to navigation as private aids will not be authorized.

[CGFR 68–152, 33 FR 19816, Dec. 27, 1968, as amended by CGD 85–057, 51 FR 11448, Apr. 3, 1986]

§ 66.01–3 Delegation of authority to District Commanders.

- (a) Pursuant to the authority in 49 CFR 1.45(b), the Commandant delegates to the District Commanders within the confines of their respective districts (see Part 3 of this chapter for descriptions) the authority to grant permission to establish and maintain, discontinue, change or transfer ownership of private aids to maritime navigation, and otherwise administer the requirements of this subpart.

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(b) The decisions of the District Commander may be appealed within 30 days from the date of decision. The decision of the Commandant in any case is final. [

CGFR 68–152, 33 FR 19816, Dec. 27, 1968, as amended by USCG–1998–3799, 63 FR 35526, June 30, 1998]

§ 66.01–5 Application procedure.

Application to establish and maintain, discontinue, change, or transfer ownership of a private aid to navigation shall be made to the Commander of the Coast Guard District in which the private aid to navigation is or will be located. Application forms (CG–2554) will be provided upon request. The applicant shall complete all parts of the form applicable to the aid to navigation concerned, and shall forward the application in triplicate to the District Commander. The following information is required:

- (a) The proposed position of the aid to navigation by two or more horizontal angles, or bearings and distance from charted landmarks. A section of chart or sketch showing the proposed location of the aid to navigation shall be included.
- (b) The name and address of the person at whose expense the aid will be maintained.
- (c) The name and address of the person who will maintain the aid to navigation.
- (d) The time and dates during which it is proposed to operate the aid.
- (e) The necessity for the aid.
- (f) For lights: The color, characteristic, height above water, and description of illuminating apparatus.
- (g) For fog signals: Type (whistle, horn, bell, etc.) and characteristic.
- (h) For buoys or daybeacons: Shape, color, number, or letter, depth of water in which located or height above water.
- (i) For racons: Manufacturer and model number of racon, height above water of desired installation, and requested coding characteristic. Equipment must have FCC authorization. [CGFR 68–152, 33 FR 19816, Dec. 27, 1968, as amended by CGD 85–057, 51 FR 11448, Apr. 3, 1986]

§ 66.01–10 Characteristics.

- (a) The characteristics of a private aid to navigation shall conform to the United States Aids to Navigation System described in Subpart B of Part

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62 of this subchapter, except that only tungsten-incandescent light sources will be approved for electric lights.

- (b) Owners of previously authorized, but nonconforming, private aids to navigation must bring such aids to navigation into conformance with the U.S. Aids to Navigation System not later than December 31, 1994.[CGD 86–031, 52 FR 42645, Nov. 6, 1987, as amended by CGD 93–047, 58 FR 64153, Dec. 6, 1993]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33573, June 19, 1998, § 66.01–10 was amended by removing paragraph (b) and removing the paragraph designation (a), effective July 20, 1998.

§ 66.01–15 Action by Coast Guard.

- (a) The District Commander receiving the application will review it for 153 **Coast Guard, DOT § 66.01–50** completeness and will assign the aid one of the following classifications:

Class I: Aids to navigation on marine structures or other works which the owners are legally obligated to establish, maintain and operate as prescribed by the Coast Guard.

Class II: Aids to navigation exclusive of Class I located in waters used by general navigation.

Class III: Aids to navigation exclusive of Class I located in waters not ordinarily used by general navigation.

- (b) Upon approval by the District Commander, a signed copy of the application will be returned to the applicant. Approval for the operation of radar beacons (racons) will be effective for an initial two year period, then subject to annual review without further submission required of the owner. [CGFR 68–152, 33 FR 19816, Dec. 27, 1968, as amended by CGD 85–057, 51 FR 11448, Apr. 3, 1986]

§ 66.01–20 Inspection.

All classes of private aids to navigation shall be maintained in proper operating condition. They are subject to inspection by the Coast Guard at any time and without prior notice.

§ 66.01–25 Discontinuance and removal.

- (a) No person, public body or instrumentality shall change, move or discontinue any authorized private aid to navigation required by

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- statute or regulation (Class I, § 66.01–15) without first obtaining permission to do so from the District Commander.
- (b) Any authorized private aid to navigation not required by statute or regulation (Classes II and III, § 66.01–15) may be discontinued and removed by the owner after 30 days' notice to the District Commander to whom the original request for authorization for establishment of the aid was submitted.
 - (c) Private aids to navigation which have been authorized pursuant to this part shall be discontinued and removed without expense to the United States by the person, public body or instrumentality establishing or maintaining such aids when so directed by the District Commander.

§ 66.01–30 Corps of Engineers' approval.

- (a) Before any private aid to navigation consisting of a fixed structure is placed in the navigable waters of the United States, authorization to erect such structure shall first be obtained from the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in whose district the aid will be located.
- (b) The application to establish any private aid to navigation consisting of a fixed structure shall show evidence of the required permit having been issued by the Corps of Engineers.

§ 66.01–40 Exemptions.

- (a) Nothing in the preceding sections of this subpart shall be construed to interfere with or nullify the requirements of existing laws and regulations pertaining to the marking of structures, vessels and other obstructions sunken in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States (Part 64 of this subchapter), the marking of artificial islands and structures which are erected on or over the seabed and subsoil of the Outer Continental Shelf (Part 67 of this subchapter), or the lighting of bridges over navigable waters of the United States (Subchapter J of this subchapter).
- (b) Persons marking bridges pursuant to Subchapter J of this title are exempted from the provisions of § 66.01–5. [CGD 78–156, 48 FR 11268, Mar. 17, 1983]

§ 66.01–45 Penalties.

Any person, public body or instrumentality, excluding the armed forces, who shall establish, erect or maintain any aid to maritime navigation without first obtaining authority to do so from the Coast Guard, with the exception of those established in accordance with § 64.10 of this chapter, or who shall

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violate the regulations relative thereto issued in this part, is subject to the provisions of 14 U.S.C. 83. [CGD 78–156, 48 FR 11268, Mar. 17, 1983]

§ 66.01–50 Protection of private aids to navigation.

Private aids to navigation lawfully maintained under these regulations are entitled to the same protection against § 66.01–55 33 CFR Ch. I (7–1–98 Edition) interference or obstruction as is afforded by law to Coast Guard aids to navigation (Part 70 of this subchapter). If interference or obstruction occurs, a prompt report containing all the evidence available should be made to the Commander of the Coast Guard District in which the aids are located.

§ 66.01–55 Transfer of ownership.

- (a) When any private aid to navigation authorized by the District Commander, or the essential real estate or facility with which the aid is associated, is sold or transferred, both parties to the transaction shall submit application (§ 66.01–5) to the Commander of the Coast Guard District in which the aid is located requesting authority to transfer responsibility for maintenance of the aid.
- (b) The party relinquishing responsibility for maintenance of the private aid to navigation shall indicate on the application form (CG–2554) both the discontinuance and the change of ownership of the aid sold or transferred.
- (c) The party accepting responsibility for maintenance of the private aid to navigation shall indicate on the application form (CG–2554) both the establishment and the change of ownership of the aid sold or transferred.
- (d) In the event the new owner of the essential real estate or facility with which the aid is associated refuses to accept responsibility for maintenance of the aid, the former owner shall be required to remove the aid without expense to the United States. This requirement shall not apply in the case of any authorized private aid to navigation required by statute or regulation (Class I, § 66.01–15) which shall be maintained by the new owner until the conditions which made the aid necessary have been eliminated.

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Subpart 66.05—State Aids to Navigation

SOURCE: CGFR 66–32, 31 FR 10320, July 30, 1966, unless otherwise noted.

§ 66.05–1 Purpose.

The purpose of the regulations in this subpart is to prescribe the conditions under which state governments may regulate aids to navigation owned by state or local governments, or private parties. With the exception on the provisions of subpart 66.10, which are valid until December 31, 2003, aids to navigation must be in accordance with the United States Aids to Navigation System in part 62 of this subchapter.

[CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33573, June 19, 1998]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By CGD 97–018, 63

FR 33573, June 19, 1998, § 66.05–1 was revised, effective July 20, 1998. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

§ 66.05–1 Purpose.

(a) The purpose of the regulations in this subpart and subpart 66.10 of this part is to prescribe the conditions under which State governments may regulate aids to marine navigation, including regulatory markers, owned by State or local governments or private parties, in navigable waters of the United States not marked with aids by the Federal Government; and to prescribe a uniform system of marine aids to navigation compatible with the United States Aids to Navigation System described in Part 62 of this subchapter. [CGD 86–031, 52 FR 42645, Nov. 6, 1987]

§ 66.05–5 Definitions.

- (a) The term *State waters for private aids to navigation* means those navigable waters of the United States which the Commandant, upon request of a State Administrator, has designated as waters within which a State government may regulate the establishment, operation, and maintenance of marine aids to navigation, including regulatory markers. The Commandant will entertain requests to make such designations with respect to navigable waters of the United States not marked by the Federal government. These designations when approved will be set forth in separate sections by States in this subpart and will briefly describe or identify waters so designated.
- (b) The term Uniform State Waterway Marking System (USWMS) means the system of private aids to navigation which may be operated in State

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waters. Subpart 66.10, which describes the USWMS, expires on December 31, 2003.

- (c) The term *State Administrator* means the official of a State having power under the law of the State to **Coast Guard, DOT § 66.05–20** regulate, establish, operate or maintain maritime aids to navigation on waters over which the State has jurisdiction.
- (d) The term *State aids to navigation* means all private marine aids to navigation operated in State waters for private aids to navigation, whether owned by a State, political subdivisions thereof or by individuals, corporations, or organizations.
- (e) The terms regulate *State maritime aids to navigation* means to control the establishment, disestablishment, operation and maintenance of State aids to navigation. [CGFR 66–32, 31 FR 10320, July 30, 1966, as amended by CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33573, June 19, 1998]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By CGD 97–018, 63

FR 33573, June 19, 1998, § 66.05–5, was amended by revising the section heading and paragraph (b), effective July 20, 1998. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

§ 66.05–5 Definition of terms used in this subpart and Subpart 66.10.

* * * * *

- (b) The term *Uniform State Waterway Marking System* (USWMS) means the system of private aids to navigation, including regulatory markers, which may be operated in State waters for private aids to navigation. Subpart 66.10 of this part describes the Uniform State Waterway Marking System.

* * * * *

§ 66.05–10 State waters for private aids to navigation; designations; revisions, and revocations.

- (a) A State Administrator who desires to regulate State maritime aids to navigation in the navigable waters of the United States not marked by the Federal Government, shall request the Commandant to designate the specific bodies of water involved as State waters for private aids to navigation.

- (b) The request shall be forwarded to the District Commander in whose district the bodies of water are located. The request shall give the name and description of the waterway; the extent of use being made of the waterway for marine navigation, in general terms; an appropriate chart or sketch of the

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area; and a general outline of the nature and extent of the State aids to navigation which the Administrator plans to establish in the waterway.

(c) The District Commander shall review the request and consult with the State Administrator concerning the terms of an initial agreement to be entered into under provisions of § 66.05–20. When they have arrived at terms of an agreement satisfactory to both, the District Commander shall forward the request to the Commandant with his recommendations and the terms of agreement mutually settled upon. If they cannot reach such agreement, the District Commander shall forward the request with his recommendations and a statement of the points agreed upon and the points remaining at issue.

(d) Upon receipt of the request, the Commandant will determine whether or not approval of the request is in the public interest and will inform the State Administrator and the District Commander of the Coast Guard's decision. If the request is approved, the designation by the Commandant of the waters in question as State waters for private aids to navigation will be also defined and described in this subpart.

(e) The Commandant may, upon his own initiative or upon request, revoke or revise any designations of State waters for private aids to navigation previously made by him. Written notice shall be given the State Administrator of the action contemplated by the Commandant. The State Administrator will be afforded a period of not less than 30 days from the date of the notice in which to inform the Commandant of the State's views in the matter before final action is completed to revoke or revise such designation.

§ 66.05–20 Coast Guard-State agreements.

- (a) The District Commander in whose District a waterway is located may enter into agreements with State Administrators permitting a State to regulate aids to navigation, including regulatory markers, in State waters for private aids to navigation, as, in the opinion of the District Commander, the State is able to do in a manner to improve the safety of navigation. When a waterway is located within the area of jurisdiction of more than one Coast
- (b) § 66.05–25 33 CFR Ch. I (7–1–98 Edition) Guard District, the District Commander in whose District the State capital is located shall execute the agreement in behalf of the Coast Guard. All such agreements shall reserve to the District Commander the right to inspect the State aids to

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navigation without prior notice to the State. They shall stipulate that State aids to navigation will conform to the Uniform State Waterway marking System or to the U.S. Aids to Navigation System and that the State Administrator will modify or remove State aids to navigation without expense to the United States when so directed by the District Commander, subject to the right of appeal on the part of the State Administrator to the Commandant.

- (c) A Coast Guard-State agreement shall become effective when both parties have signed the agreements. In lieu of the procedure prescribed in § 66.01–5, the agreement shall constitute blanket approval by the Commandant, of the State aids to navigation, including regulatory markers, established or to be established in State waters for private aids to navigation designated or to be designated by the Commandant.
- (d) In addition to the matters set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, Coast Guard-State agreements shall cover the following points, together with such other matters as the parties find it desirable to include:
 - (1) A description, in sufficient detail for publication in Notices to Mariners, of all aids to navigations under State jurisdiction in navigable waters of the United States in existence prior to the effective date of the agreement which have not been previously approved under procedures of § 66.01–5.
 - (2) Procedures for use by the State administrator to notify the District Commander of changes made in State aids to navigation, as required by §66.05–25.
 - (3) If prior to December 21, 2003, specification of the marking system to be used, whether the U.S. Aids to Navigation System or the Uniform State Waterway Marking System.
 - (4) Specification of standards as to minimum size and shape of markers, the use of identifying letters, the use of reflectors or retro-reflective materials, and any other similar standards so as to enable Coast Guard inspectors to determine compliance with Statewide standards.

[CGD 86–031, 52 FR 42645, Nov. 6, 1987, as amended by CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33573, June 19, 1998]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33573, June 19, 1998, § 66.05–20 was amended in paragraph (c) (3) by adding to the beginning of the paragraph the words “If prior to December 31, 2003,” and by uncapitalizing the word “Specification”, effective July 20, 1998.

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§ 66.05–25 Change and modification of State aids to navigation.

(a) Wherever a State Administrator shall determine the need for change in State aids to navigation, he shall inform the District Commander of the nature and extent of the changes as soon as possible, preferably not less than 30 days in advance of making the changes.

§ 66.05–30 Notice to Mariners.

(a) The District Commander may publish information concerning State aids to navigation, including regulatory markers, in the Coast Guard Local Notices to Mariners as he deems necessary in the interest of public safety.

(b) Notices to Mariners which concern the establishment, disestablishment, or change of State aids to navigation, including regulatory markers, may be published whenever the aids to navigation concerned are covered by navigational charts or maps issued by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or the U.S. Lake Survey, Corps of Engineers.

§ 66.05–35 Private aids to navigation other than State owned.

(a) No person, public body or other instrumentality not under control of the Commandant or the State Administrator, exclusive of the Armed Forces of the United States, shall establish, erect or maintain in State waters for private aids to navigation any aid to navigation without first obtaining permission to do so from the State Administrator. Discontinuance of any State **Coast Guard, DOT § 66.10–1** aids to navigation may be effected by order of the State Administrator.

§ 66.05–40 Corps of Engineers' approval.

(a) In each instance where a regulatory marker is to be established in navigable waters of the United States which have been designated by the Commandant as State waters for private aids to navigation, the State Administrator is responsible for obtaining prior permission from the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concerned, authorizing the State to regulate the water area involved, or a statement that there is no objection to the proposed regulation of the water area. A copy of the Corps of Engineers permit or letter of authority shall be provided by the Administrator to the District Commander upon request.

(b) Similarly, where an aid to navigation is to be placed on a fixed structure

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or a mooring buoy is to be established in State waters for private aids to navigation, the State Administrator shall assure that prior permission or a statement of no objection to the structures or mooring buoys proposed is obtained from the District Engineer concerned. A copy of the permit or letter is not required by the District Commander.

§ 66.05–100 Designation of navigable waters as State waters for private aids to navigation.

In accordance with the procedures contained in § 66.05–10(d), the following navigable waters listed by the State in which they are located, are designated as State waters for private aids to navigation:

- (a) *Alabama*. Each water within the State not marked with Coast Guard aids to navigation on March 26, 1971.
- (b) *Arizona*. The portion of Lake Havasu within the State, except that portion within Havasu Lake National Wildlife Refuge.
- (c) *Louisiana*. The portion of Toledo Bend Reservoir within the State.
- (d) *Missouri*. Each water within the State except the:
 - (1) **Mississippi River**; and
 - (2) **Missouri River**.
- (e) *Montana*. The portion of Missouri River between the U.S. Highway 287 bridge near Townsend and Great Falls including the following impoundments:
 - (1) **Black Eagle Dam Reservoir**.
 - (2) **Canyon Ferry Reservoir**.
 - (3) **Hauser Lake**.
 - (4) **Holter Lake**.
 - (5) **Rainbow Dam Reservoir**.
- (f) *North Carolina*. Each navigable water within the State not marked with Coast Guard aids to navigation on June 1, 1973.
- (g) *Pennsylvania*. The portion of Youghiogheny River Reservoir within the State.
- (g–1) *South Carolina*. (1) The portion of Lake Wylie within the State; (2) Lake Marion; (3) Lake Moultrie; and (4) Lake Murray.
- (h) *Texas*. The portion of Toledo Bend Reservoir within the State.
- (i) *Virginia*. (1) Claytor Lake, on the New River in Pulaski County.
 - (2) **Leesville Lake**, on the Roanoke River below Smith Mountain Dam.
 - (3) The portions of the following reservoirs within the State:
 - (i) **Gaston**.
 - (ii) **Holston**.
 - (iii) **John H. Kerr**.

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(iv) **Philpott.**

(j) *Wisconsin.* Navigable waters within the State not marked with Coast Guard aids to navigation on November 17, 1969. [CGD 72–154R, 38 FR 33473, Dec. 5, 1973, as amended by CGD 76–015, 41 FR 12879, Mar. 29, 1976; CGD 80–132, 46 FR 27643, May 21, 1981]

Subpart 66.10—Uniform State Waterway Marking System

SOURCE: CGFR 66–32, 31 FR 10321, July 30, 1966, unless otherwise noted.

§ 66.10–1 General.

- (a) Until December 31, 2003, the Uniform State Waterway Marking System's (USWMS) aids to navigation provisions for marking channels and obstructions may be used in those navigable waters of the U.S. that have been designated as state waters for private aids to navigation and in those internal waters that are non-navigable waters of the U.S. All other provisions for the use of regulatory markers and other aids to navigation shall be in accordance with United States Aid to § 66.10–5 33 CFR Ch. I (7–1–98 Edition) Navigation System, described in part 62 of this subchapter.
- (b) The US AtoNS may be used in all U.S. waters under state jurisdiction, including non-navigable state waters. [CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33574, June 19, 1998] EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33574, June 19, 1998, § 66.10–1 was revised, effective July 20, 1998. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

§ 66.10–1 General.

- (a) The Uniform State Waterway Marking System (USWMS) was developed to convey to the small vessel operator, in particular, adequate guidance to indicate safe boating channels by indicating the presence of either natural or artificial obstructions or hazards, marking restricted or controlled areas, and providing directions. The USWMS may be used in those navigable waters of the U.S. which have been designated as State waters for private aids to navigation and in those internal waters which are not navigable waters of the U.S.
- (b) The U.S. Aids to Navigation System, described in Part 62 of this Subchapter, may be used in all U.S. waters, including those waters under State jurisdiction.
- (c) The USWMS consists of:

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- (1) A system of regulatory markers to indicate to a vessel operator the existence of dangerous areas as well as those which are restricted or controlled, such as speed zones and areas dedicated to a particular use, or to provide general information and directions;
 - (2) A system of aids to navigation to mark channels and obstructions; and
 - (3) A distinctive color scheme for mooring buoys.
- [CGD 86-031, 52 FR 42645, Nov. 6, 1987]

§ 66.10-5 Regulatory markers.

- (a) Each regulatory marker shall be colored white with international orange geometric shapes.
- (b) When a buoy is used as a regulatory marker it shall be white with horizontal bands of international orange placed completely around the buoy circumference. One band shall be at the top of the buoy body, with a second band placed just above the waterline of the buoy so that both international orange bands are clearly visible to approaching vessels. The area of buoy body visible between the two bands shall be white.
- (c) Geometric shapes shall be placed on the white portion of the buoy body and shall be colored international orange. The authorized geometric shapes and meanings associated with them are as follows:
 - (1) A vertical open faced diamond shape to mean danger.
 - (2) A vertical open faced diamond shape having a cross centered in the diamond to mean that a vessel is excluded from the marked area.
 - (3) A circular shape to mean that a vessel operated in the marked area is subject to certain operating restrictions.
 - (4) A square or rectangular shape with directions or information lettered on the inside.
- (d) Where a regulatory marker consists of a square or rectangular shaped sign displayed from a structure, the sign shall be white, with an international orange border. When a diamond or circular geometric shape associated with meaning of the marker is included it shall be centered on the signboard.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By CGD 97-018, 63

FR 33574, June 19, 1998, § 66.10-5 was removed, effective July 20, 1998.

§ 66.10-10 Geometric shapes and wording on regulatory markers.

- (a) The geometric shape displayed on a regulatory marker is intended to convey specific meaning to a vessel whether or not it should stay well clear

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of the marker or may safely approach the marker in order to read any wording on the marker.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By CGD 97-018, 63

FR 33574, June 19, 1998, § 66.10-10 was removed, effective July 20, 1998.

§ 66.10-15 Aids to navigation.

- (a) USWMS aids to navigation may have lateral or cardinal meaning.
- (b) On a well defined channel including a river or other relatively narrow natural or improved waterway, an aid to navigation shall normally be a solid colored buoy. A buoy which marks the left side of the channel viewed looking upstream or toward the head of navigation shall be colored all black. A buoy which marks the right side of the channel viewed looking upstream or toward the head of navigation shall be colored all red. On a well defined channel, solid colored buoys shall be established **Coast Guard, DOT § 66.10-25** in pairs, one on each side of the navigable channel which they mark, and opposite each other to inform the user that the channel lies between the buoys and that he should pass between the buoys.
- (c) On an irregularly defined channel, solid colored buoys may be used singly in staggered fashion on alternate sides of the channel provided they are spaced at sufficiently close intervals to inform the user that the channel lays between the buoys and that he should pass between the buoys.
- (d) Where there is no well-defined channel or when a body of water is obstructed by objects whose nature or location is such that the obstruction can be approached by a vessel from more than one direction, supplemental aids to navigation having cardinal meaning (i.e., pertaining to the cardinal points of the compass, north, east, south, and west) may be used. The use of an aid to navigation having cardinal meaning is discretionary provided that the use of such a marker is limited to wholly State owned waters and the State waters for private aids to navigation as defined and described in this part.
- (e) Aids to navigation conforming to the cardinal system shall consist of three distinctly colored buoys.
 - (1) A white buoy with a red top may be used to indicate to a vessel operator that he must pass to the south or west of the buoy.

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(2) A white buoy with a black top may be used to indicate to a vessel operator that he must pass to the north or east of the buoy.

(3) In addition, a buoy showing alternate vertical red and white stripes may be used to indicate to a vessel operator that an obstruction to navigation extends from the nearest shore to the buoy and that he must not pass between the buoy and shore. The number of white and red stripes is discretionary, provided that the white stripes are twice the width of the red stripes.

[CGFR 66–32, 31 FR 10321, July 30, 1966, as amended by CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33574, June 19, 1998]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33574, June 19, 1998, § 66.10–15 was amended by revising paragraph (a), effective July 20, 1998. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

§ 66.10–15 Aids to navigation.

(a) The second category of marker in the USWMS is the aid to navigation having lateral or cardinal meaning.

* * * * *

EDITORIAL NOTE: Amendatory instruction no. 16 at 63 FR 33574, June 19, 1998, revising paragraph (a) of § 66.10–15, incorrectly referred to a nonexistent § 66.19–15 in the heading of the amendatory language. The heading should read: “§ 66.10–15 Aids to navigation.”

§ 66.10–20 Size, shape, material and construction of markers.

(a) The size, shape, material, and construction of all markers, both fixed and floating, shall be such as to be observable under normal conditions of visibility at a distance such that the significance of the marker or aid will be recognizable before the observer stands into danger.

(b) [Reserved]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33574, June 19, 1998, § 66.10–20 was removed, effective July 20, 1998.

§ 66.10–25 Numbers, letters or words on markers.

(a) Numbers, letters or words on an aid to navigation or regulatory marker shall be placed in a manner to enable them to be clearly visible to an approaching and passing vessel. They shall be block style, well proportioned and as large as the available space permits. Numbers and letters on red or black backgrounds shall be white; numbers and letters on white backgrounds shall be black.

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(b) Odd numbers shall be used to identify solid colored black buoys or black topped buoys; even numbers shall be used to identify solid colored red buoys or red topped buoys. All numbers shall increase in an upstream direction or toward the head of navigation. The use of numbers to identify buoys is discretionary.

(c) Letters only may be used to identify regulatory and the white and red vertically striped obstruction markers.

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When used the letters shall follow alphabetical sequence in an upstream direction or toward the head of navigation. The letters I and O shall be omitted to preclude confusion with numbers. The use of letters to identify regulatory markers and obstruction markers is discretionary.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33574, June 19, 1998, § 66.10–25 was removed, effective July 20, 1998.

§ 66.10–30 Reflectors or retro-reflective materials.

(a) The use of reflectors or retro-reflective materials shall be discretionary.

(b) When used on buoys having lateral significance, red reflectors or retro-reflective materials shall be used on solid colored red buoys; green reflectors or retro-reflective materials shall be used on solid colored black buoys; white reflectors or retro-reflective materials only shall be used for all other buoys including regulatory markers, except that orange reflectors or retro-reflective materials may be used on the orange portions of regulatory markers.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33574, June 19, 1998, § 66.10–30 was removed, effective July 20, 1998.

§ 66.10–35 Navigation lights.

A red light shall only be used on a solid colored red buoy. A green light shall only be used on a solid colored black or a solid colored green buoy. White lights shall be used for all other buoys. When a light is used on a cardinal system buoy or a vertically striped white and red buoy, it shall always be quick flashing.

[CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33574, June 19, 1998]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33574, June 19, 1998, § 66.10–35 was revised, effective July 20, 1998. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

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§ 66.10–35 Navigation lights.

(a) The use of navigational lights on State aids to navigation, including regulatory markers, is discretionary. When used, lights on solid colored buoys shall be regularly flashing, regularly occulting, or equal interval lights. For ordinary purposes the frequency of flashes may not be more than 30 flashes per minute (slow flashing). When it is desired that lights have a distinct cautionary significance, as at sharp turns or sudden constrictions in the channel or to mark wrecks or other artificial or natural obstructions, the frequency of flashes may not be less than 60 flashes per minute (quick flashing). When a light is used on a cardinal system buoy or a vertically striped white and red buoy it shall always be quick flashing. The colors of the lights shall be the same as for reflectors; a red light only on a solid colored red buoy; a green light on solid colored black buoy; white light only for all other buoys including regulatory markers.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 66.10–40 Ownership identification.

(a) The use and placement of ownership identification is discretionary, provided that ownership identification is worded and placed in a manner which will avoid detracting from the meaning intended to be conveyed by a navigational aid or regulatory marker.

(b) [Reserved]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33574, June 19, 1998, § 66.10–40 was removed, effective July 20, 1998.

§ 66.10–45 Mooring (anchor) buoys.

(a) Mooring buoys in State waters for private aids to navigation shall be colored white and shall have a horizontal blue band around the circumference of the buoy centered midway between the top of the buoy and the waterline.

(b) A lighted, mooring buoy shall normally display a slow flashing white light. When its location in a waterway is such that it constitutes an obstruction to a vessel operated during hours of darkness, it shall display a quick flashing white light.

(c) A mooring buoy may bear ownership identification provided that the manner and placement of the identification does not detract from the meaning intended to be conveyed by the color scheme or identification letter when assigned.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By CGD 97–018, 63 FR 33574, June 19, 1998, § 66.10–45 was removed, effective July 20, 1998.