SAFETY FLASH 25-114: SIGHT AND PERCEPTION



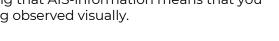
Inland and seagoing vessels share the space on the waterway, but they do not have the same view. Don't take any risks and make sure you are seen.

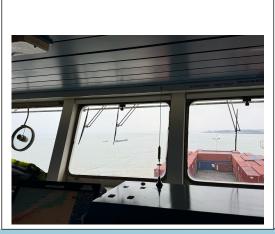
GOOD PRACTICE

- Be aware of the difference in the blind spot between a seagoing vessel and an inland vessel and the distance covered by this blind spot.
- A seagoing vessel doesn't have 360-degree visibility. If you can't see the vessel's navigation bridge (clearly) from the wheelhouse, the captain/pilot won't see you either.
- Actively take into account the height of the navigation bridge, superstructure and the loading of the other vessel.
- Use radar, AIS and ECDIS as a supplement to visual vision and communicate.
- Use appropriate lighting and signalling in poor visibility (dusk, rain, fog)...
- Assume that the other person may not see you (or not see you well). Adjust your speed when visibility is poor or there is uncertainty, sail defensively and maintain a safe distance.
- Be extra alert to see whether others can see you in bends, harbors and narrow waterways.
- If visibility or the situation is unclear, contact the traffic control; they have an overview of the entire waterway.

BAD PRACTICE

- x Assume that you are always visible from the other vessel.
- x Continuing to sail in the blind spot of a seagoing vessel.
- x Sailing too close to a seagoing vessel (due to suction).
- x Assuming that a high sea-going vessel has a better overview than a low inland vessel.
- x Initiating manoeuvres without first contacting the vessel or the traffic control to find out whether you have been seen and whether the vessel itself will soon initiate a manoeuvre.
- x Not looking back to see if a seagoing vessel is approaching.
- x Assuming that AIS-information means that you are being observed visually.







ACTION QUESTIONS

- How would you change your position if you were standing on the bridge of a seagoing vessel?
- In what situations did you rely more on AIS than on your own observations?
- What can you see clearly from your bridge, what others may not see?
- Do you make your intentions sufficiently clear through the available communication channels?

