

Vessel lights: Be safe be seen

Lights must be **switched on** from sunset to sunrise and in rain and fog while moving. Not using lights is dangerous and could result in a fine.



Vessels over 12m

Must display red and green side lights and stern and masthead lights.

Sailing boats motoring

Are considered to be powerboats and must display sidelights, a sternlight and a masthead light.



Vessels 12m or less

Must display red and green side lights and either stern and masthead lights or one all round white light.



Vessels 7m or less with max speed 7 knots

Must either display a white light visible for 2 nautical miles or carry a wide lens torch which can be displayed in sufficient time to signal another vessel to prevent collision.

All vessels at anchor must have a top white light that is visible from all directions.

- Lights have a minimum range of 1 nautical mile for sidelights and 2 nautical miles for white lights.
- Check that the lights fitted to your boat are showing through the correct arc.
- Masthead lights shine forward in a 225 degree arc and must be at least 1m above the sidelights.
- When you are drift fishing navigation lights must be shown.
- Sailing boats have different light configuration requirements. Check with www.maritimenz.govt.nz for more detail.