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No. 6351

FINLAND, DENMARK, NORWAY and SWEDEN

Agreement concerning uniform rules for the marking of navigable waters. Signed at Helsinki, on 18 September 1962

Official texts: Finnish, Danish, Norwegian and Swedish.

Registered by Finland on 18 October 1962.

FINLANDE, DANEMARK, NORVÈGE et SUÈDE

**Accord relatif au balisage uniforme des eaux navigables.
Signé à Helsinki, le 18 septembre 1962**

Texte officiels finnois, danois, norvégien et suédois.

Enregistré par la Finlande le 18 octobre 1962.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 6351. AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN DENMARK, FINLAND,
NORWAY AND SWEDEN CONCERNING UNIFORM
RULES FOR THE MARKING OF NAVIGABLE WATERS.
SIGNED AT HELSINKI, ON 18 SEPTEMBER 1962

The Governments of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, desiring to promote safety at sea in Scandinavian navigable waters through a more uniform system of marking, have agreed as follows :

Article 1

Marking in accordance with the *cardinal system* means that the appearance of sea marks is determined by their position—in terms of the nearest cardinal point (N, E, S or W)—with respect to the shoal they are marking.

Marking in accordance with the *lateral system* means that vessels proceeding in a channel in a given direction (e. g., from seaward to a port) are guided by seamarks of a specified type to starboard and of a different type to port, without reference to the points of the compass.

For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “open sea” means navigable waters lying beyond the line connecting the points which delimit the territorial sea.

The term “other navigable waters” means navigable waters lying within the aforesaid line, with the exception of inland waterways (lakes, rivers and canals).

Article 2

The following systems of marking shall be applied as heretofore, subject to the changes required under article 3 :

In the open sea

- In the case of Denmark : the lateral system,
- In the case of Finland : the cardinal system,
- In the case of Norway : the cardinal system,
- In the case of Sweden : the cardinal system,

¹ Came into force on 18 October 1962, thirty days after the date of signature, in accordance with article 6.

In other navigable waters

In the case of Denmark : the lateral system,
In the case of Finland : the cardinal system,
In the case of Norway : a combination of the cardinal and lateral systems,
In the case of Sweden : a combination of the cardinal and lateral systems.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the first paragraph, a uniform system shall be employed, both in the open sea and in other navigable waters, for the purpose of marking either the middle of a channel or a shoal of very limited size which is so situated in the channel that it can be passed on either side.

The system of marking shall be such as to make it unmistakably clear whether the marks are intended to designate the middle of a channel or a shoal situated in the channel.

Article 3

Buoys shall be coloured as follows :

When the lateral system is employed : in accordance with the system in widest use internationally at the present time ;

When the cardinal system or a combination of the cardinal and lateral systems is employed : in accordance with the colouring principles applied in Finland and Norway ;

For the purpose of marking the middle of a channel or a shoal of limited size situated in a channel : with black and red horizontal or vertical stripes.

Article 4

The topmarks of red and red-and-white buoys shall be triangular in shape, with the base uppermost.

The topmarks of black and black-and-white buoys shall be triangular in shape, with the apex uppermost.

The topmarks of red-and-black buoys shall be spherical in shape.

The nature of identifying marks other than the topmarks referred to in this article shall be determined by the State concerned.

Such other identifying marks shall be employed only to supplement the topmarks and shall be placed beneath them.

Article 5

All measures required for the application of this Agreement, including the amendment of charts and other nautical publications, shall be carried out by 1 July 1965.

Article 6

This Agreement shall enter into force thirty days after the date of signature.

Any Contracting State desiring to denounce the Agreement shall give written notice to that effect to the Government of Finland, which shall forthwith inform the other Contracting States, specifying the date on which the notice was received.

The denunciation shall operate only as regards the State effecting it and shall take effect as from 1 July following the expiry of not less than six months after the date on which the Government of Finland receives notice of denunciation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the respective plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement and have thereto affixed their seals.

DONE at Helsinki on 18 September 1962 in the Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish languages, all the texts being equally authentic, in one copy, which shall be deposited with the Government of Finland. Certified copies shall be transmitted by the Government of Finland to the Governments of the other Contracting States.

Holger BECH

V. MERIKOSKI

Ivar LUNDE

Gösta ENGZELL