










Light Characteristics

Each nautical light can not only have its own colour but will also emit its light in a specific pattern or characteristic. This is detailed by a lettering abbreviation noted within its descriptive wording.

TERM	ABBREVIATION	DESCRIPTION	PATTERN
Fixed	F	<i>on continuously</i>	
Flashing	Fl	<i>the duration of light is shorter than the duration of darkness</i>	
Group Flashing	Fl(3)	<i>a group of flashing lights (dictated by number) repeated at regular intervals</i>	
Long Flash	LFl	<i>a single flash in which the appearance of light is >2s</i>	
Occulting	Oc	<i>the total duration of light is greater than the total duration of darkness</i>	
Isophase	Iso	<i>the duration of light is equal to the duration of darkness</i>	
Quick	Q	<i>50 to 79 flashes per minute</i>	
Very Quick	VQ	<i>80 to 159 flashes per minute</i>	
Ultra Quick	UQ	<i>160 or greater flashes per minute</i>	
Group Quick	Q(3)	<i>a group of quick flashing lights (dictated by number) repeated at regular intervals</i>	