

COLREGs Rule 16

Action by Give-way Vessel



Every vessel which is directed to keep out of the way of another vessel shall, so far as possible, take early and substantial action to keep well clear.

Keep Everyone Happy

Rule 16 is one of the shortest rules but it makes life easier for everyone. The basic points are:

- Do not hesitate – alter course or speed **early**.
- Do not make small alterations – only a **big alteration** of course or speed will show the other vessel exactly what you are doing.
- Do not assume anything – keep checking the CPA and keep taking compass bearings to make sure your action has the desired effect.
- **Keep everybody happy.**

Following Rule 16 makes life easier for all vessels. If the other vessel is happy with your alteration there is less chance of it doing something unexpected. Treat other vessels as you would like to be treated yourself. Good seamanship includes **courtesy and common sense**.

Summary

Always give way to a stand-on ship early, clearly and courteously.

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