The signals illustrated in this leaflet are those to be used by any ship or person in distress when communicating with search and rescue units. They have been agreed internationally for this purpose and it is important that you are familiar with them to ensure they are correctly used in distress situations.

The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) in Regulation 29 of Chapter V requires you to have access to this table. You are advised to keep a copy on board, or if this is not practicable, at least to study the table before you go boating.
**LIFE SAVING SIGNALS**
To be used by Ships, Aircraft or Persons in Distress, when communicating with life-saving stations, maritime rescue units and aircraft engaged in search and rescue operations.

**Search and Rescue Unit Replies**
You have been seen, assistance will be given as soon as possible.

- Orange smoke flare.
- Three white star signals or three light and sound rockets fired at approximately 1 minute intervals.

**Shore to Ship Signals**
Safe to land here.
- Vertical waving of both arms, white flag, light or flare.
- Morse code signal by light or sound.

**Landing here is dangerous. Additional signals mean safer landing in direction indicated.**
- Horizontal waving of white flag, light or flare. Putting one flag, light or flare on ground and moving off with a second indicates direction of safer landing.
- Morse code signals by light or sound.

**Surface to Air Signals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Message</th>
<th>ICAO/IMO Visual Signals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Require assistance</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require medical assistance</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No or negative</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes or affirmative</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeding in this direction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Use International Code of Signal by means of lights or flags or by laying out the symbol on the deck or ground with items which have a high contrast to the background.

**Air to Surface Replies**
Message Understood.
- Drop a message.
- Rocking wings.
- Flashing landing or navigation lights on and off twice.
- Morse code signal by light.

Message Not Understood – Repeat.
- Straight and level flight.
- Circling.
- Morse code signal by light.

**Air to Surface Direction Signals**
Sequence of 3 manoeuvres meaning proceed to this direction.

1. Circle vessel at least once.
2. Cross low, ahead a vessel rocking wings.
3. Overfly vessel and head in required direction.

Your assistance is no longer required.

- Cross low, astern of vessel rocking wings.
- Note: As a non-preferred alternative to rocking wings, varying engine tone or volume may be used.

**Surface to Air Replies**
Message Understood – I will comply.
- Change course to required direction.
- Morse code signal by light.
- Code & answering pendant "Close Up".

I am unable to comply.
- Morse code signal by light.
- International flag "N".

Note: Use the signal most appropriate to prevailing conditions.