

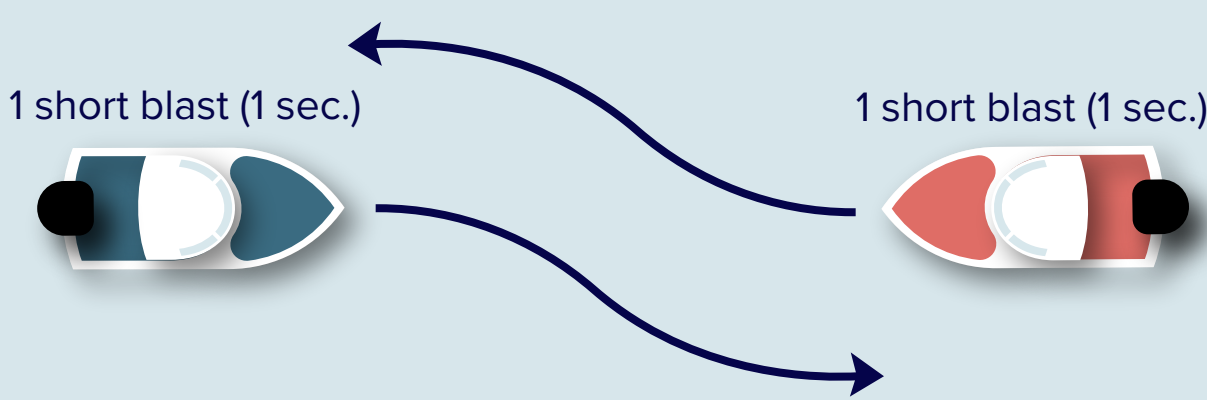
# UNDERSTANDING RIGHT OF WAY

The stand-on vessel has the right of way, and the give-way vessel is required to yield. The vessel that is the stand-on versus the give-way varies according to the scenario at hand. Three scenarios cover the vast majority of situations.

## 1. MEETING HEAD-ON

Both vessels should move to starboard (or to the right) and pass each other port-to-port, or left-hand side to left-hand side.

This scenario is similar to two cars heading towards each other on a roadway, and they both move to the right-hand side. In this case, there is no stand-on or give-way vessel, and they both have an obligation to take action.



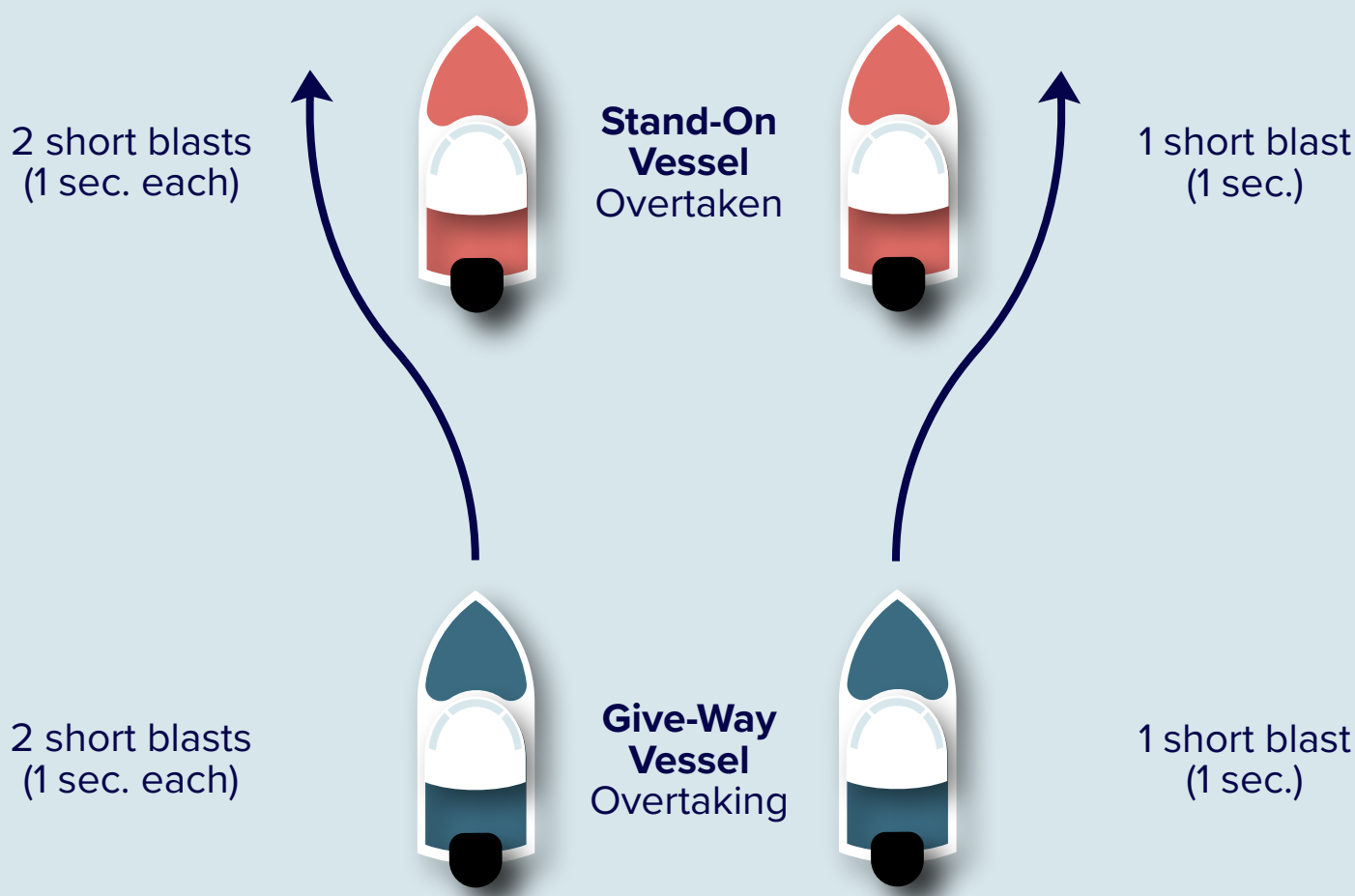
Sound signal: Passing port-to-port requires one short horn blast to signal intention and one short blast for agreement.

## 2. OVERTAKING

Overtaking is passing while going in the same direction. The vessel approaching from behind is the give-way vessel until it has passed the other vessel.

The vessel being overtaken has the right of way but must maintain its course and speed while being passed.

Sound signal: Passing portside requires two short blasts to signal the overtaking boat's intention and two short blasts for the stand-on vessel to communicate agreement. Passing to starboard requires one short blast for intent and agreement.



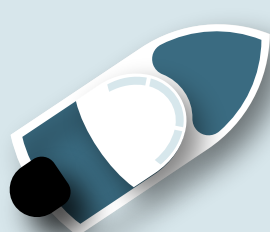
## 3. CROSSING

The give-way vessel must act to avoid a collision in a crossing situation. Action may include altering course to pass astern (behind) or slowing down.

The stand-on vessel should maintain its course and speed.

**Give-Way Vessel**  
Alter course to pass astern (behind).  
1 short blast (1 sec.)

**Stand-On Vessel**  
Maintain course and speed.  
1 short blast (1 sec.)



## 4. RULE OF TONNAGE & VESSELS CONSTRICTED BY DRAFT

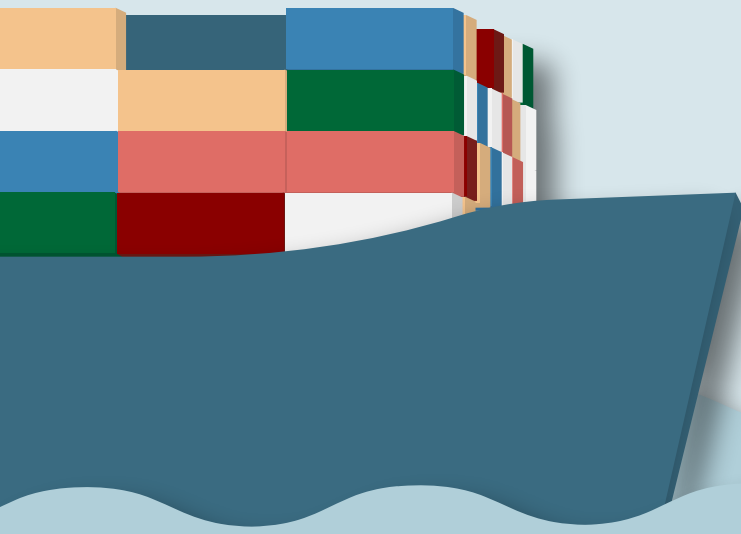
These rules are essential, especially when boating in busy shipping channels and ports.

### LAW OF GROSS TONNAGE

The heavier vessel always has the right-of-way.

### VESSELS CONSTRICTED BY DRAFT

A boat fewer than 65 feet (20 m) in length or a sailing vessel shall not impede the passage of a boat that, because of her draft in relation to the available depth and width of navigable water, is severely restricted in her ability to deviate from the course she is following.



For more information about the rule of the nautical road for recreational boaters, visit the US Coast Guard's site at:

<https://uscgboating.org/regulations/navigation-rules.php>

For all of your boating needs, visit [www.partsvu.com](http://www.partsvu.com)

In Southwest Florida and interested in on-the-water training?  
Visit [www.naplesschoolofboating.com](http://www.naplesschoolofboating.com)