

LECTURE 04 • LGC424 • 4 H

COLLISION AT SEA AND LIABILITIES

Purpose. Analyse civil and criminal issues arising from collision, including COLREG compliance, negligence, causation, apportionment, damages, evidence and time limits.

Learning outcomes supported. 2, 3, 4 and 6

Suggested time plan: Read and annotate 50 min | Research rules and statute 60 min | Analyse the collision file 100 min | Review 30 min | Total 4 h

Research questions

1. How do the COLREGs inform breach of duty without replacing the full negligence analysis?
2. How should a court approach causation, fault apportionment, remoteness and mitigation after a collision?
3. Which records and immediate actions best protect life, preserve evidence and support later civil or criminal proceedings?

Independent-learning activity

4. Read the lecture and construct a minute-by-minute timeline for a fictional crossing collision in restricted visibility.
5. Apply the relevant COLREG duties and identify potential breaches by each vessel, including bridge-team and management issues.
6. Prepare a loss schedule covering physical damage, detention and consequential claims, while identifying remoteness and mitigation questions.
7. Submit a 1,200-word preliminary collision opinion with timeline, evidence-preservation checklist and provisional fault analysis.

Recommended further reading

[IMO: Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea](#)

[Merchant Shipping Act 1995](#)

[Marine Accident Investigation Branch: guidance and reports](#)

Also use the corresponding London Gateway College lecture material and any tutor-approved primary authority or specialist maritime-law source.