



BARBADOS

S.I. 2025 No. 34

Merchant Shipping Act

(Act 2024–28)

**MERCHANT SHIPPING (ALLISION AND COLLISION)  
REGULATIONS, 2025**

The Minister, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 1476 of the *Merchant Shipping Act*, makes the following Regulations:

1. These Regulations may be cited as the *Merchant Shipping (Allision and Collision) Regulations, 2025*.

2. In these Regulations,

“allision” means any accident involving a moving vessel and a stationary vessel or a moving vessel and a stationary object or structure whether that structure is partly or wholly in the sea, which causes loss or damage;

“collision” means any accident involving moving vessels or moving structures at sea, which causes loss or damage, even if no actual contact has taken place;

“COLREGs” means International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972, as amended, incorporated in the Act;

“maritime accident” has the same meaning as in PART XXXII of the Act.

3. The collision prevention rules contained in COLREGs apply *mutatis mutandis* to allisions.

4. The collision regime under Part XX of the Act and the maritime accident and incident investigation regime under Part XXXII of the Act, apply *mutatis mutandis* to allisions.

5. The *Merchant Shipping (Liability and Compensation) Act, 2024* (Act 2024-30) applies *mutatis mutandis* to allisions and collisions.

6.(1) In a maritime accident resulting from an allision, there is a presumption of liability against the moving vessel.

(2) To avoid or reduce liability under paragraph (1), the moving vessel shall prove

- (a) that notwithstanding the vessel was navigating in accordance with COLREGs, the accident was unavoidable;
- (b) the vessel had to in the circumstances deviate from one or more COLREGs rules, in attempt to avoid the accident;
- (c) the vessel was operating with reasonable care; or
- (d) that the stationary vessel or other stationary object or structure caused the accident.

(3) Where both the moving vessel and the stationary object or structure contributed to the accident, liability shall be equally apportioned.

7. The Administration shall, in collaboration with relevant entities, develop maritime allision and collision accident management guidelines, addressing pre-and-post accident aspects.

Made by the Minister this 23rd day of April, 2025.

G.P.I. GOODING-EDGHILL  
Minister responsible for Shipping