General Rules

1. Only the person who has the Con can give conning, helm or engine orders
2. The CO can take the Con anytime by giving a conning, helm or engine order
3. If in doubt, ask the CO if they have the Con
4. Compass directions always are given using three numbers, (e.g. Course of 110 is 1-1-0)
5. Helm orders are always spoken in whole numbers, (e.g. Port 15)
6. Speed is given using two number, (e.g. Speed 12 is Speed 1-2)

Order Sequence

Order
Repeat
Report
Acknowledge

Conning Orders

Conning Orders are used for course alterations of less than 10°

Direction + Course to steer = Conning Order

Course alteration of 272 to 280

OOM: (order) “Starboard Steer two eight zero"

HELM: (repeat) “Starboard Steer two eight zero"

HELM: (report) “Course two eight zero, Sir/Ma’am"

OOM: (acknowledgement) “Very good"

Note: The direction is not required but it is common practice to use it when making a course alteration between 5-10°.

Helm Orders

Helm orders are used to change course by more than 10°

Standard Helm = 15° and

Double Standard Helm = 30°

Direction + Rudder angle = Helm Order
Example

OOW: *(order)* "Port fifteen"

HELMSMAN: *(repeat)* "Port fifteen"

Applies 15° of port helm, once the rudder angle indicator displays the ordered helm then reports

HELMSMAN: *(report)* “Fifteen of port wheel on, Sir”

OOW: *(acknowledgement)* "Very good"

To decrease the amount of Helm during a Course alteration use the words “Ease to”

Example

OOW: "Port fifteen"

HELM: "Port fifteen"

Applies 15° of port helm, once the rudder angle indicator displays the ordered helm then reports

HELMSMAN: “Fifteen of port wheel on, Sir/Ma’am"

OOW: "Very good"

OOW: “Ease to five,”

HELMSMAN: “Ease to Five,”

Slowly turns the wheel to 5° of port helm, once the rudder angle indicator displays the ordered helm then reports

HELMSMAN: “Five of Port wheel on Sir/Ma’am,”

OOW: “Very Good,”

Midships

Midships is the order to bring the rudder to 0°

Midships is used when an incorrect order or action is taken and is always followed by either a Conning order, Helm order or the order Steady (see below)

Example

OOW: "Midships"

HELMSMAN: "Midships"

HELMSMAN: "Wheel’s amidships, Sir/Ma’am"

OOW: "Very good, "
### Steady Helm on New Course

**Example**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OOW</td>
<td>&quot;Midships&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELMSMAN</td>
<td>&quot;Midships&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELMSMAN</td>
<td>&quot;Wheel’s amidships, Sir/Ma’am&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OOW</td>
<td>&quot;Very good, Steady&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELMSMAN</td>
<td>“Steady, One Three Seven,”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OOW</td>
<td>“Very Good, Steer One Three Seven,”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELMSMAN</td>
<td>“Steer One Three Seven,”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Executes the order and reports once the Ship is on course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HELMSMAN</td>
<td>“Course One Three Seven Sir/Ma’am,”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OOW</td>
<td>“Very Good,”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Counter Helm

Counter Helm is a helm order given in the opposite direction of a previous helm order to stop the ship’s turn faster, this order is given several degrees before the ship head reaches the desired course.

**Example**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OOW</td>
<td>&quot;Midships&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELMSMAN</td>
<td>&quot;Midships&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELMSMAN</td>
<td>&quot;Wheel’s amidships, Sir/Ma’am&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OOW</td>
<td>“Port fifteen,”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELMSMAN</td>
<td>“Port fifteen,”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELMSMAN</td>
<td>“Fifteen of port wheel on, Sir/Ma’am”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OOW</td>
<td>“Very Good, Midships”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELMSMAN</td>
<td>&quot;Midships&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELMSMAN</td>
<td>&quot;Wheel’s amidships, Sir/Ma’am&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OOW</td>
<td>“Very Good, Steer One Three Seven,”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELMSMAN</td>
<td>“Steer One Three Seven,”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Executes the order and reports once the Ship is on course

**HELMSMAN**: “Course One Three Seven Sir/Ma’am,”

**OOW**: “Very Good,”

### Engine Orders

Speed + Direction + Engine = Engine Order

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speed</th>
<th>Direction</th>
<th>Engine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slow</td>
<td>Ahead</td>
<td>Both engines = both engines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half</td>
<td>or</td>
<td>Port = port engine only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Speed</td>
<td>Astern</td>
<td>Starboard = stbd engine only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example**

**OOW**: "Half ahead both engines"

**QM**: "Half ahead both engines.

**QM**: “Both engines half ahead set, Sir/Ma’am"

**OOW**: "Very good"

### Opposed Engine Orders with Helm

**Example**

Helm Order + Engine 1 Order + Engine 2 Order

**OOW**: " Starboard fifteen, Half ahead port, slow astern starboard, "

**QM**: " Starboard fifteen, Half ahead port, slow astern starboard, "

**QM**: " Fifteen of starboard wheel on, Port engine half ahead, starboard engine slow astern, Sir/Ma’am"

**OOW**: "Very good"

### Setting Speed

**Example**

**OOW**: “Set speed One Two”

**QM**: “Set speed One Two”

**QM**: “Speed One Two Ahead Set, Sir.”

### Miscellaneous Order

**Check Telegraphs**

Check Telegraphs is used to report the state of the engines

**Examples**
| **OOW:** “Check Telegraphs,”  
| **QM:** “Port Half ahead, starboard stopped, Sir/Ma’am,”  

| **Passing Through a Cardinal Point**  
| When the ship passes through a cardinal point the helmsman makes a report.  
| This can be done using the Cardinal point or degrees.  

### **Examples**  
- **Helmsman:** “Ship’s Head Passing through South, 15 of Port wheel on Sir/Ma’am,”  
- **Helmsman:** “Ship’s Head Passing through one eight zero, 15 of Port wheel on Sir/Ma’am,”

| **Passing the Con**  
| To give or receive the Con the following sequence must be followed  
| The OOW passing the con gives the following Information  

**Passing:** Course Steered, Speed rung on, Current Engine Configuration, “You Have the Con,”  

**Receiving:**” Repeat Course Steered, Speed Rung, Engine configuration “Rank Last Name, I Have the Con,”