

IHB File No. S3/7198

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CIRCULAR LETTER 37/2004</b> <b>21 June 2004</b></p>
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**WORKING GROUP ON S-44**  
**STANDARDS FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS**

Dear Hydrographer,

The current 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of S-44 was published in April 1998, since when the Working Group has been dormant. Former members of the Working Group are shown at Annex A. The IHB has received a letter from Australia, attached at Annex B, requesting that the S-44 WG be re-convened “to undertake a full review of the current edition and the subsequent publication of a revised edition that takes into account the latest technology and contemporary requirements for hydrographic data”.

The IHB forwarded the Australian Document to the 16<sup>th</sup> CHRIS meeting, which was held in Ottawa, Canada in May 2004 where there was broad support for the revision of S-44 and, therefore, the re-convening of the S-44 WG.

The IHB, therefore, intends to re-convene the S-44 WG unless Member States have strong objections. Member States are requested to provide comments and any nominations for the WG that they might wish to make to the IHB **by 17 September 2004**.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

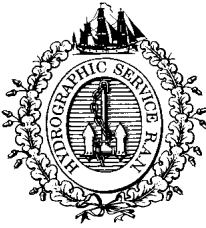
*(original signed)*

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS  
President

Annex A: Former Member States and representatives of the S-44 Working Group  
Annex B: Letter from Australia

Member States and representatives on the S-44 WG

Australia	Peter JOHNSON
Brazil	Joan BOSLORO
Canada	Rob HARE
France	Herve BISQUAY
Italy	Adriano MORI
Italy	G. VASSALLO
Japan	Teruo KANAZANA
Norway	Kjell OLSEN
Portugal	PIMENTAL
Spain	Francisco CARILLO DE ALBORNOZ
Sweden	Lars JAKOBSSON
UK	Peter HOBSON
USA	Jerry MILLS
USA	Paul COOPER
USA	Maxim VAN NORDEN



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(DHOC 020/04)

President, IHB

For Information:

PA-H

PA-C (for CHRIS)

**Review of S44**

Dear Sir,

In Australia's view several deficiencies or omissions in S-44 are now apparent that merit an urgent review of the document.

The current edition of S-44 IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys was published in 1998. Since then, a number of technical developments have matured, and in particular MBES has entered widespread use, yet is not adequately catered for in the current edition.

Examples of areas that require review and updating include:

- greater clarity is required in designating the nature and size of undersea features ("targets");

- a more realistic review of the capabilities of contemporary technology;

- inclusion of standards for metadata and attributes for use in data quality attribution, both for nautical charting (e.g. S-57 Zones of Confidence) and more detailed GIS analysis;

- facilitate review by a wider range of stakeholders, i.e. including academia, and industry (manufacturers and surveyors);

Chapter 2 of the 3rd edition of S-44 "Classification Criteria for Deep Ocean Soundings" was retained in the current edition for historical reasons. It was reproduced without amendment but may now be considered as requiring review in light of technological developments and quality attribution.

At the time the current, 4<sup>th</sup> edition was published it was expected that S-44 would be subject to review leading to a new edition after a period of five years. It is therefore requested that consideration be given to re-convening the S-44 Working Group to

undertake a full review of the current edition and the subsequent publication of a revised edition that takes into account the latest technology and contemporary requirements for hydrographic data.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.E. Ward', written in a cursive style.

R.E. WARD  
Captain, RAN  
Director, Hydrographic Operations and Capability

29 Apr 04