

**CIRCULAR LETTER 46/2004**  
**2 July 2004**

**NEW AND REVISED PAPER CHART SPECIFICATIONS**

*Archipelagic Sea Lanes (ASL)*  
*Environmentally Sensitive Sea Areas (ESSA)*  
*IMO Areas to be Avoided (ATBA)*

Ref: 1) IHB Circular Letter 75/2003 dated 10 December 2003  
2) M-4 Part B Chart Specifications of the IHO

Dear Hydrographer,

The Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG), a constituent body of CHRIS, has completed drafts of new or revised International chart Specifications for:

- Archipelagic Sea Lanes (ASL)
- Environmentally Sensitive Sea Areas (ESSA)
- IMO Areas to be Avoided (ATBA) and No Anchoring Areas, which are routeing measures often implemented for environmental protection.

This letter seeks your agreement to adopt these draft specifications into M-4.

[Copies of the drafts](http://www.iho.shom.fr) have been placed on the IHO website ([www.iho.shom.fr](http://www.iho.shom.fr) > Committees > CHRIS > CSPCWG > IHO Publication M-4), in accordance with the revised procedures detailed in IHB CL 75/2003. Please note that the new M-4 format style, colours and pagination is still being developed. Any Member State unable to view or print the draft specifications should request hard copies from the IHB.

Drafts of these specifications were originally prepared by the former Chart Standardization Committee (CSC), and in the case of ASL, ATBA and No Anchoring Areas, the chart representations have already been included in IMO's Ships' Routeing.

In developing these specifications, the CSPCWG consulted members of the other CHRIS Working Groups to ensure that new paper chart symbols are compatible with the requirements of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC). As a result, the final draft specifications, particularly for ASL, are significantly different from those originally prepared by CSC. In summary:

**B-435.7** (ATBA) has been amplified to include the IMO definition, and an example of a cautionary note.

**B-435.10** is a new specification for ASL. The main differences from the specification drafted by CSC (and already included in Ships' Routeing) are:

- On ENC, it is necessary to define areas (including traffic lanes) by limits, so the outer boundaries of the ASL are to be charted in full. Including full limits will also be to the practical advantage of the paper chart user.
- The symbol has been turned to point into the area it defines, in accordance with the normal convention.
- The outer limit has been changed from semi-circles to triangles, using a symbol already approved for ENC and included in S-52.
- The use of a tint is recommended so that the limit can be shown unbroken, without obscuring important detail, especially around headlands.

**B-435.11** is a new specification for the IMO routeing measure 'No Anchoring Area', which was the subject of IMO SN/Circ.215.

**B-437** is a new specification providing guidance for the charting of the many different forms of Environmentally Sensitive Sea Areas (ESSA). The practice of many Hydrographic Offices, whose printing methods enable them to use green for such areas, is encouraged.

According to Specification B-160, Member States are requested to make known to the IHB ([info@ihb.mc](mailto:info@ihb.mc)) any major objections to the adoption of the above specifications, or any other comments, within three months, i.e. **before 2 October 2004**. In the absence of such objections, the IHB will announce, by a subsequent Circular letter, that the amendments have come into force.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

*(original signed)*

Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR  
Director