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CIRCULAR LETTER 121/2005
6 December 2005

IHO PUBLICATION M-4

REGULATIONS OF THE IHO FOR INTERNATIONAL (INT) CHARTS AND
CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO

Version 3.002 - November 2005

- References:
- 1) IHO CL 75/2005 dated 29 July 2005: AIS - equipped Aids to Navigation
 - 2) IHO CL 96/2005 dated 27 September 2005: Revised Section B-200 of M-4

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Circular Letter 75/2005 proposed a solution to chart AIS-equipped aids to navigation, which had been developed by the Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG). This was described in a draft new M-4 Specification B-489 which was attached to the CL. Member States were asked to inform the IHB if they had any objections to the adoption of this proposal. The IHB is pleased to report that no objection was raised by Member States. The Bureau thanks the following 9 Member States who responded to CL 75/2005, all expressing their support of the proposed new specification B-489: Australia, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Japan, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom. Additionally, Canada suggested that the colour of the symbol and text, i.e. magenta, be explicitly mentioned, as is common practice in M-4. The final wording of B-489 has been amended accordingly. Also Cuba suggested that consideration be given to including the term "AIS", with a suitable definition, in the IHO Hydrographic Dictionary, Publication S-32. This has been passed to the relevant IHO body¹ for further action.

2. Circular 96/2005 reported on the Member States' approval of the revision of section B-200 of M-4, as completed by the CSPCWG.

3. As a result [version 3.002 of M-4 \(English\)](#), dated November 2005, incorporating both the new Section B-200 and the new specification B-489, has been prepared and placed on the IHO website (see www.iho.shom.fr > Publications > Download List).

4. As mentioned in CL 96/2005, CSPCWG is actively engaged in revising and updating the IHO's paper chart specifications. The next step will concern Section B-400; Section B-300 will then follow. The Working Group currently comprises representatives from 25 MS²; its Terms of Reference are posted on the IHO website (see www.iho.shom.fr > Committees > CHRIS/CSPCWG). Membership is open to all Member States and new members are welcome, provided that they can

¹ Committee on the Hydrographic Dictionary

² Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA (NGA & NOAA)

commit effort and contribute at a working level to the Working Group's activities. Further details may be obtained from, and expressions of interest in joining CSPCWG should be conveyed to, the Chairman [Dr. Peter Jones, UKHO, Taunton, Somerset TA1 2DN, UK - Peter.Jones@ukho.gov.uk - Tel: +44 (0)1823 723343 - Fax: +44 (0)1823 284077].

5. The preparation of French and Spanish versions of M-4, strictly adhering to the current English version, is now a high priority for the IHB. Accordingly, the Bureau is liaising with several HOs to hopefully accelerate the completion of an up-to-date M-4 in French and Spanish.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Barbor', written over a horizontal line.

Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR
Director