



IHB File No. S3/4405

CIRCULAR LETTER 12/2005
21 January 2005

**REVISED SECTION B-100 FOR
CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO (M-4)**

- References:
- 1) Publication M-4 – Part B: Chart Specifications of the IHO.
 - 2) Publication M-3 : Technical Resolutions of the IHO.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Chart Specifications and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) has put in hand a complete review and revision of M-4 Part B, building on work already begun by the former Chart Standardization Committee (CSC).
2. The aims of the review and revision of M-4 Part B are:
 - To insert new specifications, and update existing ones, changing paragraph numbers only if absolutely necessary.
 - To include references to digital charts, S-52 and S-57 in the introductory sections and improve M-4 Part B's compatibility with S-52 and S-57.
 - To make the wording more prescriptive where possible, continuing the progress which has been made towards greater international standardization over the last 15-20 years, exemplified by the publication of S-52 and S-57.
 - To clarify that the role of M-4, Part B is two-fold, that is it provides:
 - An explanation of the general concepts and rationale behind the symbology used in charting, much of which is relevant to both digital and paper charts and
 - Specific guidance for paper charts, including the use of text and symbology.
3. The CSPCWG has completed a revision of the [first section of M-4 Part B \(B-100\)](#), which is available on the IHO website (www.iho.shom.fr > Committees > CHRIS > CSPCWG > IHO Publication M-4), for Member States to examine.
4. Noteworthy changes from the original section B-100 are as follows:
 - New introductory paragraphs B-100.1-3.
 - Extracts from SOLAS Chapter V included in paragraph B-102.
 - B-110.6 (reference to lattice overprints) deleted.
 - New paragraphs B-120.1-5 explaining conventions used within M-4.

- Changes to the scale groups at B-126 to improve consistency with other IHO guidance, such as S-57, M-4 Part A and M-11 Part A ('Guidance for the Preparation and Maintenance of INT chart schemes' – not yet published).
- Conventions for Bearings has been moved from B-263 to B-132, and updated from TR A2.6.
- B-140 expanded to cover the use of additional colours resulting from the increasing use of new printing technology.
- B-170 expanded to cover 'ZOC' diagrams.
- B-177 'Preferred Areas' and B-178 'Reliability diagrams' deleted (following evidence that these are no longer used).
- A new section B-180 on Catalogues and Index Charts is derived from TR B1.12.

Note: It is proposed to move sections B-170 to B-178 into B-200 when that section is revised, as this is a more suitable place.

5. Revised French and Spanish versions of Section B-100 of M-4 will be prepared at the IHB.
6. IHO Technical Resolutions A2.6, B1.12, B3.3 and B3.18 have been included in the proposed revision, and it is proposed to cancel them when the proposed revision of M-4 Part B-100 comes into force.
7. Member States are requested to complete the response form in **Annex A** and review the proposed revision. According to Specification B-160, MS should inform the IHB (info@ihb.mc) if they have any major objections to the adoption of the revised section B-100, or any other comments, within three months. Therefore, the response form and MS' comments should reach the IHB no later than **21 April 2005**. If no objections are received, the IHB will announce in a follow-up Circular Letter that the revised section has come into force.
8. The IHB takes this opportunity to express its gratitude to the CSPCWG¹ and its Secretariat at the UKHO² for this valuable achievement and, as a general note, for the remarkable work that has been accomplished so far by this WG.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR
Director

¹ Current membership includes: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Netherlands, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom and USA (NGA and NOAA).

² Peter Jones, Chairman, and Andrew Coleman, Secretary

**IHO TECHNICAL RESOLUTIONS
Publication M-3**

Response Form

*(to be returned to the IHB by 21 April 2005
E-mail: info@ihb.mc - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)*

Member State:

1. Do you agree that the following IHO Technical Resolutions, which have been included in the revision of M-4 Part B-100, be cancelled when this revision comes into force:

- TR A2.6 **BEARINGS** – see B-132,
- TR B1.12 **CATALOGUES; INDEX CHARTS** – see B-180,
- TR B3.3 **STANDARD KEYS TO SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS** – see B-151.1, and
- TR B3.18 **CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO** – see B-102.

YES

NO

Comments :
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Name:

E-mail :

Signature :

Date :