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IHO PUBLICATION M-4

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

- References:
- 1) IHO CL 74/2004 dated 9 November 2004: Obsolete and Obsolescent Entries in INT 1 And M-4
 - 2) IHO CL 75/2003 dated 10 December 2003: IHO Publication M-4

Dear Hydrographer,

A new portable document format (pdf) digital, English language version, of M-4 has been posted on the IHO website (www.iho.shom.fr > Publications > Download List).

We are grateful to the UK Hydrographic Office for producing and providing this improved format version, in which a more consistent layout has been achieved, while retaining the existing numbering system. It is numbered Version 3.000¹, but does not contain any unannounced substantive changes from the previous release (December 2002) as updated by various amendments, except as noted below.

The recent new and revised specifications and symbols announced in Circular Letters 01 and 14/2005 have been fully included; the 'stand-alone' versions of these new specifications will therefore soon be removed from the website. The new draft section B-100, promulgated in IHO CL 12/2005, has **not** been included, as it is not yet finalized. This is expected to be the first update to M-4 Version 3.000.

Part B Section 600 (Latticed charts) has not been converted to the new format and has been removed from M-4, and the 'I' prefix has been removed from the INT 1 references, following approval by a majority of Member States in response to CL 74/2004 (Reference 1). A summary of responses to Reference 1 is at Annex A. The alphabetical index to Part B has also been removed. This is cumbersome to maintain, and the members of the Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) agreed that the time spent to update, convert and maintain it would be disproportionate to the advantages gained. The new version is, of course, easy to search using digital tools.

Most of the old raster graphics have been replaced by vector graphics, which produce a cleaner image and a smaller file size.

¹ This new release constitutes the 3rd Edition of M-4. This will be clarified on the next version.

Future maintenance will be by replacement of complete sections (for Parts A and C), or sub-sections (for Part B), rather than by the old system of replacing individual pages. Sections are grouped by hundreds, sub-sections by tens of specification numbers. Whenever a section or sub-section is replaced, a copy of it will be made available on the website, so that Member States can print copies if they wish. A revised version of the complete M-4 will also be posted, with a new version number, increasing the number to the right of the full stop by one for each new version. A CD of each new version will be archived at IHB. The Secretary of the CSPCWG will make editorial amendments as necessary, eg updating cross references and correcting any errors, whenever a new version is prepared. This procedure is in accordance with the changes announced in IHO CL 75/2003 (Reference 2). Member States are invited to advise the Secretary (via the IHB, info@ihb.mc) of any requirements for editorial changes that they may notice.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Barbor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR
Director

Annex A: Summary of Responses to CL 74/2004

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO CL 74/2004**OBSOLETE AND OBSOLESCEENT ENTRIES IN INT 1 AND M-4**

CL 74/2004 asked the following questions:

1	Do you agree that entries in INT 1 for lattice charts (IS 20-42) should be removed?
2	Do you agree that section B-600 in M-4 should be cancelled?
3	Do you agree that the symbol IS 10 (RC) should be marked obsolescent in INT 1 and subsequently removed from M-4?
4	Do you agree that the symbol IS 13 (Consol Beacon) should be marked obsolescent in INT 1 and subsequently removed from M-4?
5	Do you agree that the symbol IS 16 (Aero RC) should be marked obsolescent in INT 1 and subsequently removed from M-4?
6	Do you agree that the reference to points circles in compasses should be removed from M-4?
7	Do you agree that the 'I' prefix and references to 'Standard List of Symbols and Abbreviations' in column 5 should be removed?

Responses were received from 42 Member States. They are summarized in the table overleaf. In order for a measure to be approved, a simple majority of voting Member States is required; at the time CL 74/2004 was issued, 36 votes was a majority. Therefore the actions suggested by questions 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 are carried.

There were various comments added to the response forms, most explaining why some Member States wished for the symbols for RC and AeroRC (Questions 3 & 5) to be retained for the moment. Additionally, there was some concern that the removal of the 'I' prefixes in INT 1 and M-4 (Question 7) would be confusing as other documents contain the 'I' prefix. This concern will be mitigated by an explanatory note in the New Edition of INT 1.

Other comments were as follows:

India: Ref Q. 6: the reference to point circle in compass rose is required to measure accurate bearing angle.

UK: further suggests that the symbols for Directional and Rotating Pattern Radiobeacons (S11 & 12) should also be marked obsolescent and subsequently be removed from M-4 (B-481-482).

US: Ref Q.1: INT 1 Symbols IS20 through IS25 refer to Decca. Decca is no longer operational in the United States. We support deletion of Symbols IS20 through IS25.

INT1 Symbols IS30 through IS37 refer to LORAN-C. LORAN-C is still operational in the United States and NOAA still publishes latticed charts. It would be of benefit to international mariners who use NOAA charts if symbols IS30 through IS37 were retained in INT 1.

INT 1 Symbols IS40 through IS42 refer to Omega. Omega is no longer operational in the United States. We support deletion of Symbols IS40 through IS42.

CL 74/2004 Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Member State	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Algeria	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Argentina	x	x		x		x	x
Australia	x	x	x	x		x	x
Bahrain	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Belgium	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Brazil	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Canada		x		x		x	x
Chile	x	x		x		x	x
Colombia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Croatia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Cuba	x	x	x	x		x	x
Denmark	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Finland	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
France	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Germany	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Greece	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Iceland	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
India	x	x	x	x			x
Italy	x	x	x	x		x	x
Japan				x	x	x	
Rep. of Korea	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mexico	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Monaco	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Morocco	x	x				x	x
Netherlands	x	x	x	x		x	x
New Zealand	x	x		x	x	x	x
Norway	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Oman	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pakistan	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Peru	x	x	x	x		x	
Philippines	x	x				x	
Poland	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Portugal	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Slovenia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
South Africa	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Spain	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sweden	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Tunisia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Turkey	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
UK	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
USA		x	x	x		x	x
Uruguay	x	x		x		x	x
Totals	39	41	34	40	29	41	37