



IHB File No. S3/4405

CIRCULAR LETTER 75/2005  
29 July 2005

NEW SYMBOL AND SPECIFICATION FOR  
AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS - EQUIPPED)  
AIDS TO NAVIGATION

Reference: Publication M-4 – Part B: Chart Specifications of the IHO.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Automatic Identification System (AIS) is an autonomous and continuous broadcast system, operating in the VHF maritime mobile band. It exchanges information such as vessel identification, position, course, speed, etc. and can also be applied to Aids to Navigation. It is in this latter application that it may be useful to chart the transmitter.
2. The Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) has consulted widely and concluded that the best solution to charting such AIS-equipped aids to navigation is by using a magenta circle (similar to that used for other radar and radio aids) together with the magenta letters 'AIS', in upright text for fixed aids and in sloping text for floating aids.
3. A draft of a new M-4 Specification B-489 is attached at **Annex A**. When approved, the new symbols will be allocated numbers S 17.1 and S 17.2 respectively in INT 1.
4. According to Specification B-160, Member States are requested to make known to the IHB (info@ihb.mc) any major objections to the adoption of the above new chart symbol, or any other comments, within three months, i.e. **before 30 October 2005**. If no objections are raised, the IHB will announce in a follow-up Circular Letter that the new specification has come into force.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

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

Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR  
Director

Annex A: Draft Specification B-489 for AIS-equipped aids to navigation.

DRAFT NEW SPECIFICATION M-4 B-489**B-489**      **AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS)**

The Automatic Identification System (AIS) is an autonomous and continuous broadcast system, operating in the VHF maritime mobile band. It exchanges information such as vessel identification, position, course, speed, etc and can also be applied to Aids to Navigation. It is in this latter application that it may be useful to chart the transmitter.

**B-489.1**      **An AIS-equipped Aid to Navigation (AtoN)** may provide a positive identification of the aid. It may also transmit an accurate position, and provide additional information such as actual tidal height or local weather; details of these functions, which cannot be charted, should be provided in associated publications as appropriate. AIS transmitters on AtoN must be charted by the following symbols:



S17.1 (with the letters in upright text) must be used with fixed aids. S17.2 (with the letters in sloping text) must be used with floating aids. In most cases, the centre position circle (Fixed point - B22) should be replaced by the symbol for the actual AtoN, eg a light star or buoy symbol. If it is necessary to chart a 'virtual' AIS AtoN, where no physical aid exists, then the centre position circle must be retained.