



IHB File No. S3/4405

**CIRCULAR LETTER 96/2005
27 September 2005**

**REVISED SECTION B-200 FOR
CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO (M-4)**

- References:
- 1) Circular Letter 40/2005 dated 22 April 2005
 - 2) Circular Letter 57/2005 dated 30 May 2005
 - 3) Publication M-4 - Part B: Chart Specifications of the IHO
 - 4) Publication M-3 : Technical Resolutions of the IHO

Dear Hydrographer,

Circular Letter 40/2005 announced that the Chart Specifications and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) had completed a revision of Section B-200 of M-4 and that it was available on the IHO website for Member States to examine. This same CL also reported that IHO Technical Resolutions B 1.1, B 2.10, B 2.13, B 2.14 and B 2.15 had been included in the proposed revision, and consequently Member States were requested to approve their deletion from M-3 when the revised M-4 Part B-200 comes into force.

The Bureau thanks the following 39 Member States who responded: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Rep. of Korea, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, USA and Uruguay. No objection was raised concerning the revision of M-4 B-200, which is therefore approved. Comments were made by Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Portugal, which are reproduced in the Annex to this CL. An IHB Note has been included as appropriate. Also the proposal to cancel TRs B 1.1, B 2.10, B 2.13, B 2.14 and B 2.15 received support from all 39 responding Member States and is therefore adopted. Publication M-3 will be updated accordingly.

As announced in CL 57/2005, version 3.001 of M-4 incorporating the approved revision of Section B-100 has now been posted on the IHO website (www.iho.shom.fr > Publications > Catalogue > M-4). Similarly, version 3.002, incorporating the approved revision of Section B-200, will soon be produced and placed on the IHO website.

The relevant changes will be made to the French and Spanish versions, which will be available in due course.

The CSPCWG is actively pursuing the revision of the remaining sections of M-4 Part B and the next step will concern Section B-400. Member States are invited to contribute to this work through their representatives on CSPCWG.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Barbor', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR
Director

Annex : Member States comments in reply to CL 40/2005.

Responses to CL 40/2005

Comments by Member States

Australia

Australia suggested a few minor typographical corrections and some additions to Section B-200, with the Chairman of CSPCWG in copy. Associated comments are summarized below.

There were a few instances where the INT1 'I' prefix was still included, and following the CSPCWG1 meeting decision, these should be deleted. The most significant proposed addition is to require compliance with INT 2 rather than just have it as a reference. As INT1, INT2 and INT 3 are all supplementary to M-4, they are considered (at least by AU) to be part of the specifications and Australia believes they 'must' or at least 'should' be complied with.

IHB Note : Australia's suggestions have been taken into account in the final version of B-200.

Canada

Section B-201 :

WGS is a datum that is slowly moving ; it is constantly moving as time goes on. CHS paper charts on the other hand are a static entity. The best way to show that charts are based on a static datum is to say that our charts were compiled to NAD 83. CHS will continue to state that the chart is on NAD 83, which (at chart scale) is equivalent to WGS 84.

Section B-222.2 :

The reduction of 25 mm in the N/S neat line dimensions to accommodate the title appears to be very small. This would only allow for the title of the chart to be placed outside of the neat line. Where is the remaining information mentioned in B-241 to be positioned?

IHB Note : This comment has been forwarded to the CSPCWG Chairman for further action.

Chile

We agree with the proposal. This will be helpful for a better organisation and internal structure of M-4.

Ecuador

Once these Resolutions are included in the M-4 publication, this will enable the use of the different horizontal datums and headings of the medium and large scale International Charts to be updated. It would also be important to unify the use of vertical datums.

Peru

The Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation considers that these changes are positive and agrees that the contents of the Technical Resolutions should be included in M-4 Section B200.

Portugal

Portugal fully supports the work done and the future work focus on maintaining and enhancing the cartographic standards in paper charts to satisfy the mariner's requirements, whilst bringing together, whenever possible, issues common to paper and digital charts, achieving as well convergence and harmonisation between both standards.

According to the resolution given in CL 41/2005, the "I" prefix has been removed from the INT 1 references. Therefore in paragraphs B-272.2 and B-281, the "I" references should be removed.

IHB Note : This is true; all undesirable "I" have been removed from the final version of B-200.