



IHB File No. S3/4405

CIRCULAR LETTER 27/2008
17 March 2008

REVISED SECTION OF THE CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO (M-4)
AND OTHER CSPCWG PROPOSALS

References: a) Publication M-4 Part B: Chart Specifications of the IHO
b) Publication M-3: Technical Resolutions of the IHO

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) is continuing with the review and revision of Part B of M-4 (Reference 1). CSPCWG has now prepared a draft revision of the section B-440 to B-449. A copy of the draft is now available on the IHO website (www.iho.int > Committees > CHRIS > CSPCWG > IHO Publication M-4), for Member States to examine. An alternative copy, with new text in colour, is also available in the same area of the website. This track change version has been made to assist translators, but can be used to recognize areas of change; however, as the format and graphics in this version have not been updated it should be used with caution. This revision includes many improvements to the text, to make it more consistent with other parts of M-4, and numerous amendments, amplifications and updates. Noteworthy changes to the existing specifications are listed in **Annex A**.

2 The CSPCWG has incorporated the requirements of Technical Resolution B2.35 (in Reference 2) into the revised text, and recommends that it should be cancelled on publication of M-4 version 3.005, which will be issued after the revised section has been approved.

3 The CSPCWG also proposes new specifications for 'mooring ground tackle', to be included in M-4 at B-431.6.

4 The CSPCWG proposes that the colour for charting magnetic anomalies should be magenta, for reasons of consistency.

5 The CSPCWG proposes that the list of International abbreviations (which has been recently updated), should be transferred from INT1 to M-4.

6 Member States are requested to review the CSPCWG's draft revision and proposals. According to Specification B-160, Member States should inform the IHB (info@ihb.mc) if they have any major objections to the adoption of the revised and additional specifications, or any other comments, within three months. Therefore, Member States' comments should reach the IHB **no later than 17 June 2008**. If no objections are received, the IHB will announce in a follow-up Circular Letter that the revised specifications and proposals have come into force. Please respond using **Annex B**.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', is written over a white background.

Captain Robert WARD
Director

NOTEWORTHY CHANGES TO CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO (M-4) B-440 TO B-449

- B-440:** This sub-section has been rearranged to locate definitions with the charting practice to simplify usage. Definitions have been updated to conform to UNCLOS and a specification for the charting of the continental shelf boundary has been added.
- B-440.3** The requirement not to use the international boundary symbol for disputed boundaries has been strengthened.
- B-441.8:** This specification has been expanded to cover mine danger areas and former mined areas.
- B-442.3** A new specification and symbol has been added for charting individual mines or explosives (a symbol version of INT1 area N23.1).
- B-443.8:** A new specification has been added for buried cables.
- B-444.8:** A new specification has been added for pipeline installations.
- B-445:** The whole subject of offshore production has become more complex since the original specifications were published. Consequently, this sub-section has been totally re-written, with some inevitable changes to paragraph numbers. Some background information is provided to assist the cartographer in correct symbol selection. Specific points are:
- The CSPCWG agreed that the symbol for height of Well above seabed (INT1 L21.3), which had never actually been approved by Member States, should not be retained as an INT symbol. It is preferable to provide a safe clearance depth (B-445.1). However, HOs are at liberty to retain the symbol as a national symbol.
 - The CSPCWG considers that there is no value to the user in labelling production wells any differently from other wells, so the 'Prod Well' abbreviation is to be made obsolescent (B-445.1c);
 - The CSPCWG suggests that labelling wells that at times have a tanker positioned above may be useful and proposes that the abbreviation 'SWOPS' for Single Well Oil Production System, which is in common usage in the oil industry, may be used on charts (B-445.1d);
 - A new symbol is proposed for a moored storage tanker (B-445.5, INT 1 L17);
 - A new specification has been added for charting development areas (B-445.7);
 - A new specification has been added for wave energy devices and wave farms (B-445.12) which are becoming increasingly common.
- B-446:** It is suggested that the term 'Extraction area' should be used in preference to 'Dredging area', as a more accurate description and less likely to be confused with 'Dredged area'.
- B-447:** The generic term 'Aquaculture' has been introduced for all types of exploitation of marine life.
- B-447.4:** The appropriate use of the magenta shellfish bed symbol has been clarified (ie only where there are no obstructions to navigation).
- B-447.5:** The inclusion of depth information in fish havens has been clarified.
- B-447.7:** A new specification for fish aggregating devices has been added.
- B-449.1:** The option to add a date to ice limit symbols has been added.
- B-449.2:** The use of the existing log pond specification and symbol has been extended to cover other types of floating barriers.
- B-449.6:** A new, more intuitive seaplane symbol has been proposed, for use in seaplane operating areas and seaplane anchorages.
- B-431.6:** As stated in the Circular Letter, a proposed new specification for mooring ground tackle is appended.

REVISED SECTION OF THE CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO (M-4) AND OTHER CSPCWG PROPOSALS

Response Form

(to be returned to the IHB by 17 June 2008

E-mail: info@ihb.mc - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

Member State:

1. M-4 section B-440 to B-449 revision. Do you have any comments on the draft revised section?

Comments :

.....

2. TR B2.35. Do you agree that the IHO Technical Resolution, 'Drawing of the Territorial Sea Limits on Nautical Charts', is cancelled when this revision of M-4 Part B-440 to B-449 is published?

YES

NO

3. Ground tackle. Although ground tackle has been charted at mooring trots (INT1 Q42) for a long time, the CSPCWG considers that a more generic symbol and specification is required for wider use. The draft specification is included at the end of the draft B-440 to B-449 on the IHO website. Do you have any comments on the draft specification for B-431.6?

Comments :

.....

4. Colour of magnetic anomalies. All other magnetic data is shown in magenta (except for the line in the title notes of plans), see M-4 B-274.1 and B-274.2. It is believed that the practice of showing magnetic anomalies in black is carried forward from the time when compass roses were black. Do you have any comments on the proposal that the international specification for charting magnetic anomalies should be changed from black to magenta?

Comments :

.....

5. International abbreviations. INT1 is a document specifically designed and published for chart users (although it is acknowledged that it provides a useful quick reference for chart compilers). The list of International abbreviations in Section W is useful for compilers, but the CSPCWG believes it is of little use to the chart user (as all the abbreviations are repeated in section V), but essential for the chart compiler. Therefore, the list would be better transferred to M-4 (suggested location B-122). Do you have any comments on the proposal that the list of International abbreviations, currently section W of INT1, should be transferred to M-4 B-122?

Comments :

.....

Name: E-mail :

Signature : Date :