



IHB File N°S3/4405

CIRCULAR LETTER 76/2008
30 September 2008

CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO
- Entry into Force of New Revisions concerning:
Use of English on Charts, Revised section B-440, Mooring Ground Tackle,
Magnetic Anomalies, International Abbreviations, Use of INT1 numbers.

- References:
- a) IHB CL 82/2007 dated 19 September
 - b) IHB CL 27/2008 dated 17 March
 - c) IHB CL 71/2008 dated 22 September

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The Circular Letter in reference a) advised that the IHO Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) had drafted a new chart specification to be included in the 'language' section of M-4, at B-510. This is to incorporate the XVth International Hydrographic Conference (1997) Decision No 9:

'It is proposed that each Hydrographic Office which does not issue charts in the English language give all legends on charts affecting its territorial waters in its national language and in English.'

2 Member States were asked to inform the IHB if they had any objections to the adoption of the proposed new specification. The Bureau thanks the following 12 Member States who provided responses, all expressing their support of the proposed new specification: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, France, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine, and United Kingdom. Additionally, France and Spain have provided improved translations in French and Spanish, respectively. Also, Spain proposed some clarifications, which have been included in the final wording, which is attached at Annex A to this letter. New specification B-510.4 is therefore adopted.

3 There will also be some minor consequential changes to M-4 when the new B-510.4 is published:

- B110.5 will be slightly modified so that the first sentence reads: *'Standardization of language and names in B-500 conforms to relevant international practice'*.
- A cross reference will be added at B-122.
- The title of Section 500 will be changed to: *'Text: Language, Numbers, Names, Type Styles'*.

4 **The Circular Letter in reference b)** announced that the CSPCWG had completed a revision of chart specifications B-440 to B-449 of M-4 and that it was available on the IHO website for Member States to examine. This CL also proposed:

- that IHO Technical Resolution B2.35, *'Drawing of the Territorial Sea Limits on Nautical Charts'*, be cancelled when the revision of M-4 Part B-440 to B-449 is published.
- new specifications for *'mooring ground tackle'*, to be included in M-4 at B-431.6.
- that the colour for charting magnetic anomalies should be magenta, for reasons of consistency.
- that the list of International abbreviations (which has been recently updated), should be transferred from INT1 to M-4.

5 The Bureau thanks the following 45 Member States who responded: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Korea (Rep of), Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukraine, UK, USA. All responding HOs, with the exception of Argentina and Mexico not agreeing to cancel TR B2.35, expressed their support for the CSPCWG's revision and proposals which are therefore approved

6 Canada, Colombia, Cuba and India raised a number of minor issues, which were forwarded to the CSPCWG Chairman for further consideration. Some editorial changes were made as a consequence and the Chairman has corresponded directly with these Member States. Additionally, Chile did not agree that Section W concerning International Abbreviations should be removed from INT1, and Spain, while agreeing to its transfer to M-4, suggested that International Abbreviations listed in Section V should be highlighted. The CSPCWG will be asked to consider this further. Finally, Argentina made some comments on Spanish terms, which have been forwarded to the Spanish HO for further consideration, since they are taking care of the Spanish version of M-4.

7 A copy of the revised version of B-440 to B-449 is available on the IHO website (www.iho-ohi.net) > Committees & WG > CSPCWG > IHO Publication M-4).

8 A new version of M-4 (3.005), incorporating the approved revision of Specifications B-440 to B-449, as well as the agreed specifications for use of English, mooring ground tackle, the change to the colour of magnetic anomalies and the list of International abbreviations will now be prepared by the CSPCWG. Minor editorial updates which have accrued since the last revision will also be included. It will then be posted on the IHO website. Accordingly, TR B2.35 will at the same time be removed from IHO publication M-3.

9 The CSPCWG is currently revising Specifications B-450 to B-479 (see reference c). The other remaining sections of B-400 will follow. Member States are invited to continue contributing to this work through their representatives on CSPCWG.

10 Finally, the CSPCWG wishes to draw the attention of Member States to M-4 B-151.1 which states that: *'The reference numbering in national symbols and abbreviations lists must correspond to that used in the official INT 1, with letters used for any additional national items.'* and that *'All numbered items included in INT 1 should be shown in each nation's standard list, including in their proper place those terms for which the nation concerned has no symbol or abbreviation. This will enable a navigator who possesses a standard booklet, written in a familiar language, to interpret foreign standard booklets.'* The CSPCWG is responsible for deciding the numbering and layout used in the official INT1 versions and strongly recommends that national versions of INT1 follow the same layout and numbering system, for the benefit of the user. Additional numbers should not be added to those in the official versions.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Captain Robert WARD
Director

New specification B-510.4

B-510.4 **Language on charts.** English is the accepted international language for navigational purposes and for communication at sea (SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 14 refers). See also B-122.

The XVth International Hydrographic Conference (1997) decided that:
'each Hydrographic Office which does not issue charts in the English language should give all legends on charts affecting its territorial waters in its national language and in English'. (Decision 9)

Consequent to this decision, English language versions of all notes should be included on all non-English charts. Navigationally significant legends should also be given in English, or if more convenient, listed in a glossary (key) on the chart. English language versions of notes and legends are particularly appropriate on charts used for international shipping. See also B-241 and B-242.4.

Existing paragraphs B-510.4(I) and B-510.5(I) will be renumbered B-510.5(I) and B-510.6(I) respectively.