



IHB File No S3/8151/HSSC

**CIRCULAR LETTER 11/2009
17 February 2009**

**REVIEW OF IHO TECHNICAL RESOLUTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON HYDROGRAPHIC
REQUIREMENTS FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS (CHRIS)¹
(GROUP 1 OF 4)**

Reference: IHB CL 93/2008 dated 17 November

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The IHB would like to thank the following 45 Member States who replied to the Reference: Algeria; Australia; Bahrain; Belgium; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Croatia; Cyprus; Denmark; Ecuador; Estonia; Fiji; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Guatemala; Iceland; Italy; Japan; Korea Rep of; Monaco; Morocco; Netherlands; New Zealand; Norway; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Romania; Singapore; Slovenia; South Africa; Spain; Sri Lanka; Sweden; Tunisia; Turkey; UK; USA and Uruguay. All forty-five Member States supported the CHRIS proposals with the exception of one Member State who did not support the change to TR A2.3. Eight Member States provided comments and these - together with explanatory responses - are included at Annex A.

2 In accordance with the IHO Convention Article VI paragraph 6, a simple majority of Member States is required to approve amendments to TRs. This is currently 40 Member States. The amended resolutions A1.19; A2.1; A2.3; A2.14; A2.15; and A7.4 have therefore been approved and the new texts are at Annex B. Resolutions A1.1, A1.2; A2.4; A2.7; E1.1; E3.1 and E3.2 have been deleted. M-3 will be amended at the next opportunity.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Captain Robert WARD
Director

Annex A: Comments by Member States

Annex B: Revised Resolutions A1.19; A2.1; A2.3; A2.14; A2.15; and A7.4

¹ Under the new IHO Technical structure, as from 1 January 2009, CHRIS Committee replaced by HSSC – Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee.

COMMENTS BY MEMBER STATES

Algeria:

A1.1 Algeria believes that, given its importance, the subject should be reviewed and included in another IHO publication.

By IHB: The carriage of "official publications" is now covered by Chapter V of the SOLAS Convention.

France:

A1.1: Just as a reminder - delete the reference made to TR A1.1 in TR A1.18 and generally check for cross references and delete as necessary.

By IHB: Agreed; when the full revision of all the resolutions has been completed the IHB will review all references.

A2.1: In article 1, in the French version replace "toutes les nations" by "tous les pays" to be consistent with the wording used in article 2 (ex-article 4).

By IHB: French text amended.

A2.3: - modify the title of the TR and Article 2 (twice) to read "... Symbols and Abbreviations...", as in article 1;

By IHB: It is agreed that "Symbols and Abbreviations is a more appropriate title for the TR. Article 2 has similarly been amended.

- in the line "Minute of time" - replace the text in brackets by "the use of m is not advised; it is tolerated when there is no possibility of confusion with metre)".
- in the line "Second of time" - replace "sec or s" by "s or sec"

The aim of these last two suggestions is to encourage the use of the symbol of the international system of units.

By IHB: These changes are agreed the text has been modified to read "The use of m is not recommended; it is acceptable when there is no possible confusion with metre" and "s or sec".

A2.14: France approves the deletion of the recommendation to produce printed versions of nautical publications published in digital form. France believes however that the text could be significantly improved and suggests the following wording to facilitate comprehension:

"It is resolved that nautical publications may be published in printed or digital form. When a publication is produced in both forms, it is not mandatory that both versions be facsimiles or replicas; nevertheless the information published in the two forms shall be consistent and non-conflicting. "

By IHB: It is agreed that the text proposed by France is clearer and this text, with some further editorial amendment, has been used.

A2.15: Bearing in mind the deletion of TR A1.1, France also suggests that reference be made to Rule 2.2 of Chapter 5 of the SOLAS Convention (which is not strictly speaking a convention of the UN) so to read "... in accordance with Chapter 5 of the ~~UN~~ International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and in particular to Regulations 2.2 and 9."

By IHB: These amendments are agreed and have been included.

- A7.4: in Article 2, in the French version, replace the words “mots de passé” by “mots clefs”.
- In Article 3, in the French version, replace “liaisons” by “liens” and “diagrammes visuels des index” by “cartes index”;
- In Article 4, sub-para b), in the French version, replace “capable de supporter” by “adaptée à”.

By IHB: The French text has been amended accordingly.

Pakistan:

A7.4: Standard for digital nautical publications may be devised for consistency and universal adoptability.

By IHB: Standards for digital publications are under consideration by HSCC/ SNPWG.

Papua New Guinea:

A1.19: Country meaning Member State?

By IHB: No in this case it is for any State.

A2.1: The publication should have the table of conversion from one system to other which the mariner can make reference to.

By IHB: This resolution recommends that publications that do not use the metric system show the metric equivalent in brackets. It may not be appropriate to include a conversion diagram and this would have to be a decision for each publisher.

A2.3: Why not make remove m as an alternative and just refer minutes as min.

By IHB: See discussion under France above.

A2.14: Provide a system in the digital publication that validates the graphic and attribute in the link is not correct or update until such the users aware of the publication changes through notices.

By IHB: This resolution simply allows for the publication of paper and/or digital publications. The point raised is a technical issue which if considered necessary should be raised at HSSC.

Spain:

A2.14 In the Spanish text it is considered more appropriate in paragraph 1 line 4 to replace the word “deben” with “deberian”.

By IHB: The Spanish text has been amended.

South Africa:

A2.3 The majority of symbols and abbreviations already contained in INT 1. Recommend delete those and only reflect remainder in A2.3

By IHB: It is considered appropriate that these standardised symbols and abbreviations should collectively remain as a technical resolution. INT 1 covers those that are to be use on nautical charts.

UK:

A2.3 Suggest the addition of “abbreviations and” in paragraph 2 for consistency with paragraph 1.

By IHB: Agreed paragraph 2 has been amended. (See also comment by France above.)

Supplementary comment: Retention of B5.4 is agreed but the reference to T1.2 is inappropriate and should be replaced (as an editorial change) by a reference to K2.39 (and to be consistent with TR B5.6’s reference).

By IHB: Agreed, when the full revision of all the resolutions has been completed the IHB will review all references.

USA:

A2.3: IHO could reference the IMO 1969 Tonnage convention” as part of the parenthetical note.

By IHB: This is simply a list of symbols and abbreviations, it is not considered appropriate to reference the Tonnage Convention here.

A2.14: The US further suggests a minor change in the first sentence, second line. Change “and” to read “and/or” since some navigation publications are now only issued in digital form.

By IHB: This change is agreed and has been included.

REVISED RESOLUTIONS - A1.19, A2.1, A2.3, A2.14, A2.15, A7.4

A1.19 USE OF ISO CODES FOR THE CODIFICATION OF COUNTRY NAMES

1. With the purpose of obtaining uniformity in the coding of country names, the IHO has agreed to use the two-letter (alpha-2) codes of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO 3166) as published in IHO S-62.

A2.1 UNIT OF MEASUREMENT

1. It is strongly recommended that all countries, as soon as convenient, adopt the metric system for their nautical publications.
2. It is resolved that, on charts of countries which do not use the metric system, a table or scale shall be inserted for converting into metres the depths given.
3. It is recommended that when non-metric units are used in Sailing Directions, Lists of Lights and Notices to Mariners, the equivalent measurement in the metric system be also given in brackets.

A2.3 SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

1. It is resolved that the following international symbols and abbreviations shall be used for the most common units:

Hour	h
Minute of time	min or m (The use of m is not recommended; it is acceptable when there is no possible confusion with metre.)
Second of time	s or sec
Metre	m
Decimetre	dm
Centimetre	cm
Millimetre	mm
Square metre	m ²
Cubic metre	m ³
Kilometre	km
Inch	in
Foot	ft or f ^t
Yard	yd or y ^d
Fathom	fm or f ^m
Nautical mile	M
Knot	kn
Ton, Tonne, tonnage	t (use for measurement of vessel volume or weight; the context should make clear which is intended)
Candela (new candle)	cd
Degree	x [°]
Minute of arc	y [']
Second of arc	z ["]

2. It is recommended that the above international symbols and abbreviations be used on charts instead of the entire words, as these symbols can be understood by navigators of any nationality.

A2.14 PRINTED AND DIGITAL NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS

1. It is resolved that nautical publications may be published in printed and/or digital form. When a publication is produced in both printed and digital forms, it is not mandatory that both versions be facsimiles or replicas; nevertheless the information published in the two forms shall be consistent and non-conflicting.

A2.15 NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS AND THE SOLAS CONVENTION

1. It is resolved that nautical publications produced in compliance with these Technical Resolutions and Recommendations shall be deemed to satisfy the relevant carriage requirements for nautical charts and nautical publications in accordance with the International Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention Chapter V, particularly regulations 2.2 and 9.

A7.4 CROSS-REFERENCING OF INFORMATION

1. It is recommended that insofar as is possible an auto cross-referencing system shall be incorporated to connect all related / relevant material in a digital nautical publication.
2. It is recommended that digital nautical publications make the fullest use of such things as search engines, web-based browsers, hypertext links and keywords.
3. It is recommended that the cross-referencing system be suitable to provide links to associate information in a digital nautical publication with information in ENCs (and RNCs where possible) and with visual index diagrams.
4. It is recommended that insofar as is possible:
 - a) links shall be available to associate sketch plans, aerial oblique photographs or other illustrations and photographs with the relevant digital nautical publications text and with the relevant parts of ENCs (and RNCs where possible).
 - b) digital nautical publications providing, for example, meteorological or oceanographic information shall contain a linked database capable of supporting modelling solutions.