

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
ORGANIZATION



ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

THIS CIRCULAR LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE

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CIRCULAR LETTER 12/2009
17 February 2009

REVIEW OF IHO TECHNICAL RESOLUTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON HYDROGRAPHIC
REQUIREMENTS FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS (CHRIS)¹
(GROUP 2 OF 4)

Reference: IHB CL 93/2008 dated 17 November

Dear Hydrographer,

1 IHB CL 93/2008 proposed an initial tranche of amendments to IHO Resolutions and indicated that further groups of amendments would follow. This Circular Letter invites Member States to consider the second group of resolutions recommended by the CHRIS for deletion or amendment.

2 The deleted / amended resolutions in this second tranche are shown at Annex A. Deleted text is shown in ~~striketrough~~ and new text in *italics*. In the electronic version all amended text is in red. Member States are requested to review the proposals and complete and return the attached voting form to the IHB **by 1 April 2009**.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Captain Robert WARD
Director

Annex A. Deleted / amended resolutions
Annex B. Voting form

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

CHRIS Proposal: Delete A1.7; A1.8; A1.10; A1.14; A3.3; A3.5; A3.8; A3.9; and A5.4

~~A1.7 — INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE USE OF PRECISE POSITIONING SYSTEMS~~

~~1. — It is recommended that Member States co-operate internationally in the use and calibration of precise positioning systems needed for hydrographic surveying.~~

~~A1.8 — STANDARDIZATION OF THE TIME TERM USED IN NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS~~

~~1. — It is recommended that:~~

- ~~a) — Universal Time, represented by the term "UT", replace the term "GMT" in all nautical publications where the meaning of the time is within the Universal Time concept.~~
- ~~b) — An explanatory note appear in each nautical publication where UT is used specifying whether UT means UTC, or UT1 and GMT, and describing the relationship between UT, UTC, UT1 and GMT as deemed appropriate.~~

~~2. — The term "GMT" may optionally be used with the term "UT" in such publications for a transition period not to exceed 5 years. Where the term "GMT" is used, it should be used as a secondary entry normally following, or below, the term "UT", such as "UT (GMT)" or "UT GMT".~~

~~Note: — The transition period in 2. above expired in 1992 and the text has been retained for reference purposes only.~~

~~A1.10 — LISTS OF TIME SIGNALS; TIME ZONES; STORM SIGNALS; TIDE SIGNALS; PORT SIGNALS; LIFESAVING STATIONS; SUBMARINE BELLS; etc.~~

~~1. — It is resolved that time signals, time zones, storm signals, etc., shall be included in Lists of Lights and Sailing Directions or on charts, rather than published in a special volume.~~

~~2. — It is recommended that the British procedure with regard to the insertion of such information be adopted.~~

~~*See also K1.3.*~~

~~A1.14 — CONFUSION BETWEEN BRIGHT SHORE LIGHTS AND NAVIGATIONAL LIGHTS~~

~~It is recommended:~~

~~1. — That Member States take steps to ensure that, in their respective countries, confusion between bright shore lights and navigational lights will be eliminated as far as possible, and that, where appropriate, the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities will be consulted.~~

~~2. — That Member States request their mariners to report any cases of such confusion to the proper authorities through the appropriate channels.~~

~~A3.3 — SUMMARY IN ENGLISH OR FRENCH~~

~~1. — It is recommended that Hydrographic Offices give English or French summaries in any of their publications to which they desire to draw attention.~~

~~A3.5 — EXCHANGE AND AVAILABILITY OF COMPUTER PROGRAMMES~~

- ~~1. — Member States that have developed new software for specific hydrographic, cartographic or other related activities are encouraged to provide a description to be published in the Bulletin. Basic details of the hardware type and size as well as any details of proprietary restrictions should be included, recognizing that much software today is commercially developed.~~
- ~~2. — Member States wishing to obtain information on computer programmes used in any aspect of hydrography or related activities should contact the Bureau, which will endeavour to put them in touch with other Member States that have the software available.~~
- ~~3. — Should the Bureau become aware of any computer programmes that it considers particularly relevant to the work of its Member States, it will advise them of the details by Circular Letter.~~

~~A3.8 — MAINTENANCE OF THE IHO EXCHANGE OF DIGITAL DATA FORMAT~~

~~Recognizing that, in the long term, there is a need to maintain the IHO exchange of digital data format to ensure that it continues in the future to support the basic IHO digital data exchange needs, and~~

~~— Further recognizing that there is also a short term maintenance need so that the format can be used immediately,~~

~~It is resolved:~~

~~— That the CHRIS be responsible for the maintenance of the IHO exchange of digital data format and the feature attribute coding system.~~

~~A3.9 — TRANSFER OF MAGNETIC TAPES~~

~~The XIIIth Conference,~~

~~Recognising the problems which are known to exist in the transfer of magnetic tapes between Member States' representatives,~~

~~Resolves:~~

~~That, in the event of problems being experienced by Member States in the direct transfer of magnetic tapes, the I.H. Bureau may act as a forwarding agent for the transfer of tapes.~~

~~A5.4 — DOUBTFUL AND CONFIRMED DANGERS AND ANOMALOUS DEPTHS IN THE OCEAN~~

~~1. — It is resolved that the world ocean chart cover on 1:3 500 000 or 1:10 000 000, supplemented by the records of the data in question held by each producer nation, to which enquiries for information can be made, shall constitute the IHO record of doubtful and confirmed dangers and anomalous depths in the oceans.~~

- ~~a) — Insertions, deletions and amendments of reported and confirmed dangers and anomalous depths of less than 750 metres in ocean areas should be promulgated by Notices to Mariners by all producer and printer nations of the two small scale series of INT and national charts.~~
- ~~b) — All Hydrographic Offices should pass copies of relevant new information in these categories to the producer nation responsible for the sheet which the new information affects.~~

~~Note: United Kingdom is requested to conform to this procedure in respect of the supplementary 1:3 500 000 mid-ocean charts or 1:10 000 000 Southern Ocean charts produced in its national series.~~

~~2. It is further resolved that the following items of new information, for ocean areas outside the continental shelf, should always be promulgated by Notices to Mariners.~~

- ~~a) All newly reported dangers and anomalous depths of less than 750 metres (400 fathoms approximately) with brief details of the source, e.g. survey ship, research vessel, merchant ship.~~
- ~~b) Deletion of such items, and the reasons for the deletion, in cases where the existence of a charted danger or anomalous depth, whether shown as doubtful or confirmed, has been disproved as a result of a search by a survey ship, or by other reliable means.~~
- ~~c) Amendments to depths and/or other details, and the reason for such amendments, in cases where a search has confirmed the existence of a charted danger or anomalous depth, and established with certainty its position, depth and extent.~~

CHRIS Proposal: Amend resolutions A1.11; A1.15; A1.17; and A3.1

A1.11 DELETION FROM CHARTS OF DOUBTFUL HYDROGRAPHIC DATA

1.- It is strongly recommended that, whenever possible, Member States devote part of their annual hydrographic activities to systematic investigations undertaken for the purpose of eliminating from nautical charts the reports now appearing thereon as PA, PD and ED.

~~2. — It is resolved that the IHB shall examine the present situation with regard to the charting of islands and dangers in the various oceans, notably the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and then undertake the following action in order to promote international co-operation in the accurate survey of those marked PA, PD and ED:~~

- ~~a) — Ascertain which Member States are equipped and willing to co-operate in the necessary investigations, and in what areas;~~
- ~~b) — Propose the distribution of the various explorations among these States, indicating also an approximate order of urgency.~~

~~3. — It is resolved to accept the offers of those States which have undertaken to assist in the project to make particular efforts to carry out investigations of doubtful hydrographic data within the areas indicated on the index charts. It is clearly understood that these States shall not have exclusive survey rights for the areas in which they intend to undertake investigations. It is also understood that these investigations will be carried out provided this is not in conflict with the sovereign rights of the States bordering on the zones of investigations.~~

~~4. — It is recommended that all States undertaking investigations in any area whatsoever take an interest in hydrographic data considered doubtful not only by themselves but also by other countries.~~

~~5. — It is resolved that it is the responsibility of those States which undertake investigations to decide upon their order of urgency, according to the general or local information they will endeavour to obtain.~~

~~6. — It is recommended that all Member States do their utmost to encourage the organizations in charge of oceanographic expeditions to introduce in their programs the examination of doubtful hydrographic data, in particular that of data concerning regions not covered by the investigation areas accepted by Member States.~~

~~7. — It is recommended that Member States acquaint the IHB, whenever possible, with the schedule of the investigations contemplated by them.~~

~~8. — It is recommended that Hydrographic Offices:~~

- ~~a) — Urge mariners to take soundings whenever discoloured water is noticed;~~
- ~~b) — Review the applicable legends appearing on their charts and remove all those that do not seem to refer to actual or possible dangers to navigation.~~

A1.15 DANGERS DISCOVERED IN FOREIGN WATERS

1.- It is recommended that printed forms to be used by mariners (and instructions on how to use them) should be provided by Hydrographic Offices in their regular editions of Notices to Mariners and other appropriate nautical publications, so that mariners may be encouraged to report any observed corrections needed to any charts and publications which they have used, by the quickest possible method.

2.- It is further recommended that Hydrographic Offices receiving information relating to waters for which another Hydrographic Office has the primary responsibility, should forward a copy to that

office by the quickest possible method. In cases of immediate action being required, a Radio Navigational Warning should be issued by the original Hydrographic Office.

3.- *It is resolved that the following recommendations shall be inserted in all volumes of Sailing Directions and in the first edition of Notices to Mariners of each year:*

- a) *It is strongly recommended that when navigators obtain echo soundings which appear abnormal and indicate the possible presence of a danger to surface navigation, they make every effort to confirm its position by as accurate as possible astronomical observations or electronic-aid fixes. A check, when the depth permits it, by means of a lead line is also recommended.*
- b) *It is recommended that when reporting such abnormal depths to the Hydrographic Office concerned, the following information be transmitted:*
 - i) *Make and type of echo sounder used; details of the speed of sound for which the machine was calibrated.*
 - ii) *Depth measured; date and time of day; echo sounder recording (fully annotated) if any; result of checking by lead line, if any.*
 - iii) *Position: indication of method used for its determination; approximation of that determination.*

See also A1.20

A1.17 SHIPS' ROUTEING

1.- It is resolved that in principle the objectives, definitions, procedures and methods stated in the IMO publication "Ships' Routeing" be adopted, where applicable, for hydrographic publications.

2.- It is resolved that the IHB shall endeavour to ensure that IMO:

- i) advises its members to seek expert advice of the relevant Hydrographic Offices when planning new routes;
- ii) consults the IHO in formulating definitions of routeing terms and for the adoption of symbols for showing routeing measures on charts.

3.- It is resolved that Hydrographic Offices, when consulted about the establishment of, or alteration to, particular routeing measures, shall refer to the full text of IMO's "General Provisions on Ships' Routeing" published in "Ships' Routeing".

Hydrographic Offices should refer to IMO publication Ships' Routeing for guidance on general provisions on routeing. Chart compilers should refer to M-4 B-430 or S-52 for symbols, features and specifications, as appropriate.

"DELETE ALL REMAINING TEXT EXTRACT FROM IMO SHIPS' ROUTEING GUIDANCE"

A3.1 NOTIFICATION OF ISSUE OF NAUTICAL PRODUCTS

Note: "Products" within the context of this TR includes nautical charts and documents in analogue or digital format.

1. It is resolved that, when any Hydrographic Office decides on the issue of a new product or a new edition of an existing product, it shall:

- a) publish advance notification in its Notices to Mariners, indicating the approximate date of availability (when possible), title and any information which can be of interest to users.
- b) communicate to the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) any other information concerning the product which may be of interest to other Hydrographic Offices, especially information concerning any new original data which may be included in the product.

~~2. It is resolved that the IHB shall publish in the International Hydrographic Bulletin the information referred to in paragraph 1(a) and 1(b) above.~~

VOTING FORM

*(to be returned to the IHB by 1st April 2009
E-mail: info@ihb.mc - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)*

Adoption of new / amended Technical Resolutions

Member State:

Deleted TRs

Do you agree to the deletion of TRs A1.7; A1.8; A1.10; A1.14; A3.3; A3.5; A3.8; A3.9; and A5.4

Yes or No?

If the answer for any resolution is NO, please identify the resolution and indicate the reason.

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Amended TRs

Do you agree to the amended resolution A1.11? Yes or No
Comments if any:

Do you agree to the amended resolution A1.15? Yes or No
Comments if any:

Do you agree to the amended resolution A1.17? Yes or No
Comments if any:

Do you agree to the amended resolution A3.1? Yes or No
Comments if any:

Name / Signature

Date: