



IHB File No. S3/4405

CIRCULAR LETTER 20/2009  
23 March 2009

## CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO (M-4)

**Revised Sections B-450, B-460 and B-470 (Aids to Navigation: Fog Signals, Beacons, Buoys and Lights)  
Revised Specifications and Symbols for the charting of Mangroves  
Clarifications of the term 'Recommended' and 'Rounding Rules for Soundings'  
Changes resulting from the adoption of revised IHO Resolution A2.5**

- References:
1. Publication M-4 Part B: Chart Specifications of the IHO
  2. IHO CL 71/2008 dated 22 September 2008
  3. IHO Resolution K2.39.2 - *CSPCWG ToRs - Authority*
  4. IHO CL 19/2008 dated 27 February 2008

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The Circular Letter in Reference 2 announced that the CSPCWG had completed a draft revision of chart specifications B-450 to B-479 of M-4 and that they were available on the IHO website for Member States to examine. This CL also proposed revised specifications and symbols for charting mangroves and a new paragraph clarifying the use of the term 'Recommended'.

2 Member States were asked, in accordance with Reference 3, to inform the IHB if they had any objections to the adoption of the proposed new and revised specifications and symbols. The Bureau thanks the following 22 Member States who provided responses, all expressing their support for the proposals: Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Peru, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, and United Kingdom. The new and revised specifications and symbols are therefore adopted.

3 The Circular Letter in Reference 4 announced that a revised Resolution A2.5 'Datums and Bench Marks' had been approved. Consequently, the 'Comments' at B-302.2 require updating to reflect this Resolution.

4 A new version of M-4 (3.006) will now be prepared by the CSPCWG, incorporating:

- the revision of specifications B-450 to B-479;
- the revised specifications and new symbols for mangroves (B- 312.4);
- the clarification relating to the term 'Recommended' (B-434);
- comments at B-302.2 updated to conform with Resolution A2.5.

The opportunity will also be taken to include a requested clarification to the 'rounding rules' for soundings (B-412), providing some examples and primarily intended to ensure that drying heights are rounded correctly. Other minor editorial updates which have accrued since the last revision will also be included. The new edition of M-4 will then be posted on the IHO website.

5 The next section of M-4 to be revised will be B-480 to B-499. The CSPCWG is also preparing a completely new section of M-4, to be numbered B-600, which will provide guidance on the maintenance of paper charts. Member States are invited to continue contributing to this work through their representatives on CSPCWG.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', with a period at the end.

Captain Robert WARD  
Director