



IHB File No S3/8151/HSSC

CIRCULAR LETTER 42/2009
25 June 2009

**REVIEW OF IHO TECHNICAL RESOLUTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON HYDROGRAPHIC
REQUIREMENTS FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS (CHRIS)¹
(GROUP 3 OF 4)**

Reference: CL 30/2009 dated 29 April

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The IHB would like to thank the following 47 Member States who replied to the Reference: Argentina; Australia; Bangladesh; Belgium; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Cuba; Cyprus; Denmark; Ecuador; Estonia; Fiji; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Guatemala; Iceland; India; Ireland; Italy; Japan; Korea Rep of; Latvia; Monaco; Morocco; Netherlands; Nigeria; Norway; Oman; Papua New Guinea; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Romania; Singapore; Slovenia; South Africa, Spain; Sweden; Thailand; Tunisia; UK; USA and Venezuela. 45 Member States fully supported the CHRIS proposals whilst one Member State did not support the deletion of C3.18 and one member state did not support the deletion of B2.35 and F4.3. Seven 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 the adoption, deletion or amendment of TRs. This is currently 40 Member States. The amended resolution C1.8, and new resolution A2.17, taking into account the comments made, have therefore been approved and the final texts are at Annex B. Resolutions B1.14; B1.15; B1.16; B1.17; B2.23; B2.27; B2.32; B2.35; C1.1; C1.6; C2.5; C3.18 and F4.3 have been deleted. M-3 will be amended at the next opportunity.

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

Annex A: Comments by Member States

Annex B: Final text of revised resolution C1.8 and new resolution A2.17

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

COMMENTS BY MEMBER STATES

Canada:

B2.35 and F4.3 NO Canada considers these to be fundamental elements of safe navigation. Canada can support the other recommendations made in CL 30/2009

Comments by IHB: B2.35 - the text of this resolution is now included in IHO Publication M-4 Article B440. CPRNW recommended the deletion of F4.3 as this information is fully covered by the WNWWS documentation issued by IMO and IHO.

Guatemala:

A2.17 YES Universal time coordinated is more technical to apply in maritime and navigation work.

Nigeria:

C1.8 YES The publishing of advance notification for Notice to Mariners (NMs) is a welcome development and would inform Mariners ahead of time of changes at sea.

Comment by IHB: This is not really a development as this part of the TR has existed since 1955.

A2.17 YES A Time Reference (TR) note should be included in all nautical publications indicating that UTC has replaced GMT. The TR note should be very conspicuous.

Comments by IHB: This is a matter for individual Hydrographic Offices to decide.

Oman:

C1.8 YES It is suggested the text should also refer to new editions of existing volumes. It is suggested the text is revised to read: "...issue a new volume or new edition of..."

Comments by IHB: This small amendment seems sensible and has been included in the final text at Annex B.

South Africa:

C3.18 NO It is considered to be very important safety information when navigating along low lying sandy coastlines where the radar image may only display features well inland. It is still standard practice to use parallel index on the radar to navigate along a coastline.

Comments by IHB: The deletion of this resolution was proposed by the IHO Standardization of Nautical Publications Working Group (SNPWG) and supported by CHRIS 20 on the grounds that it dated from 1967 when X Band radars were becoming common in merchant shipping, its limitations not fully understood and expectations possibly exaggerated. Further, those features that are considered as being radar conspicuous can still be charted in accordance with Spec. B-485 of M-4 and symbol S5 of INT 1.

Thailand:

C1.8 YES It reduces the work to be done by the Hydrographic Office.

A2.17 YES It is appropriate since the world has technically adopted UTC to replace GMT since 1972.

United Kingdom:

C1.8 YES UK supports the deletion of paragraph b) and proposes that the text of sub paragraph a) is run into the previous sentence to make the Resolution a single sentence ie to read:

“It is resolved that, when any Hydrographic Office decides on the issue of a new volume of Sailing Directions or a supplement, it shall publish advance notification in its Notices to Mariners.”

Comment by IHB: The IHB agrees that with the deletion of sub para b it is better to incorporate sub para a within the previous sentence.

A2.17 YES UK originally (in response to IHO CL 12/2009) supported the deletion of Resolution A1.8 on the basis that UTC has been the definitive time reference standard, in place of GMT, for over thirty years, and M-4 (in B-130 and B-110.1 respectively) states that time must be referred to UTC and that its use is a mandatory requirement in S-57.

If others consider that there is a need to retain an IHO Resolution on the subject, UK would support the inclusion of such a Resolution in Section A2 of M-3.

In the wording proposed in the CL, UK considers that the phrase “when a time reference is required” is superfluous and proposes other editorial changes for consideration in the following alternative wording:

“It is resolved that all references to time in nautical publications should be referred to the Universal Time Co-ordinated (UTC) standard, eg 1537 (UTC), 1637 (UTC+1), etc. If considered necessary, a note may be included indicating that UTC has replaced GMT.”

Comment by IHB: The revised wording from the UK is considered to be an improvement on the resolution and has been included in the final text at Annex B.

FINAL TEXT OF REVISED RESOLUTION C1.8 AND NEW RESOLUTION A2.17

C1.8 ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF THE PUBLICATION OF SAILING DIRECTIONS

1.- It is resolved that, when any Hydrographic Office decides on the issue of a new volume / edition of Sailing Directions or a supplement, it shall publish advance notification in its Notices to Mariners.

A2.17 TIME REFERENCE

It is resolved that all references to time in nautical publications should be referred to the Universal Time Co-ordinated (UTC) standard, e.g. 1537 (UTC), 1637 (UTC+1), etc. If considered necessary, a note may be included indicating that UTC has replaced GMT.