



IHB File No. S3/3061

CIRCULAR LETTER 49/2010
6 August 2010

APPROVAL OF NEW SECTION OF THE CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO (S-4)
Section B-600 Chart Maintenance

References: a) IHO Publication S-4 Part B: Chart Specifications of the IHO
b) IHO Publication M-3: Resolutions of the IHO
c) IHB CL10/2010 dated 28 January 2010

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The Directing Committee would like to thank the following 45 Member States who replied to CL 10/2010 proposing the adoption of new section B-600 on 'Chart Maintenance' for the Chart Specifications of the IHO - S-4: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Latvia, Malaysia, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, UK and USA.

2 All responses to Question 1 (Do you have any objections to / comments on the new section B-600?) supported the proposal. Seven Member States provided comments which are included at Annex A, together with explanatory responses by the Chairman CSPCWG. As a result of the 45 positive responses received, the new section B-600 of the Chart Specifications of the IHO, on Chart Maintenance, has been adopted.

3 All IHO Technical Resolutions relating to aspects of chart maintenance were examined for their currency and relevance. It was proposed that on publication of the new section these Technical Resolutions should be cancelled (and the references removed from B-600). Accordingly, a list of the Technical Resolutions recommended for cancellation was provided in the Response Form and Members States were invited to indicate whether they agree they can be cancelled (Question 2). There are currently 80 Member States of the IHO, two of whom have been suspended. Therefore in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article VI of the Convention on the IHO, the majority required on "questions concerning the technical functioning of the Organization" is 40. 40 or more Member States voted to cancel all the listed Technical Resolutions. This list is reproduced at Annex B. As a result, those Technical Resolutions concerned will be removed from Publication M-3 at the first opportunity.

4 As this is a completely new section for S-4, the CSPCWG will now produce a new edition of S-4 (Edition 4.000), which will be made available on the IHO website: <http://www.iho-ohi.net> as soon as possible. Until then, a copy of the final version of B-600 is available as a stand-alone document under S-4 in the publications download section (see http://www.iho-ohi.net/iho_pubs/standard/S-4/S-4_B-600_e4.000.pdf).

5 Translation of S-4 B-600 into French and Spanish will be undertaken as soon as possible.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

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

Robert WARD
Director

Annex A: Member States' comments
Annex B: Technical Resolutions deleted

MEMBER STATES' COMMENTS

AUSTRALIA

Question 1 (Q1): B-600 – Paragraph 4: Makes reference to Technical Resolution A1.20. Suggest this be amended to 'IHO Technical Resolution 1/2006 (formerly A1.20)'.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

All retained references to TRs will be updated to the new numbering system, as suggested.

CANADA

Q1: Canada is in agreement with the new section B-600 as presented but has the following comments:

...

There followed a list of areas where Canada's practice may be different from the new guidance. The Chairman CSPCWG has corresponded directly with Canada on these points.

COLOMBIA

Q1: Because of the differences in the updating systems (including the application of the update by the chart user) and the products' contents, the method for including new information in charts and ENC may diverge, e.g.:

- A Paper chart updated by Notice to Mariners (NM) Block may require a New Edition of an ENC cell.
- A New Edition of a paper chart may be issued as an ENC update, without the requirement for an ENC New Edition.

It is recommended to have a direct relationship between the paper chart and the electronic chart.

- If we only update the paper chart with a Notice to Mariner, the ENC must be updated.
- If we make a new printing of the paper chart because there are changes of hydrographic information or too many Notices to Mariners, then the ENC must be a new edition.

Q2: With this new section, the Publication S-4 will be more specific, with more detailed information, compiled from the technical resolutions, creating finally a unique document.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

Following consultation with and advice from EUWG, it is not practicable to make a direct link between the method of updating paper charts and ENC. For example, a reprint of a paper chart, which by definition (see B-601.6) must contain no new, unpublished, detail of navigational significance (as in the second bullet above) should not inevitably lead to a new edition of the ENC. A small change to the wording in S-4 has been made to clarify the point.

ECUADOR

Q2. Voted not to cancel TR A3.1, F3.3 and F3.4, with comments as follows:

- B-620.5 / TR F3.4 - Anywhere in the world, an obstruction means a warning message. If there is a light, this is a positive thing, because we often do not know which type of obstruction it is, and then it's better to advise the mariner about this hydrographic detail. Therefore, in the Notices there should be a permanent note for a reasonable period of time.
- B-620.5 / TR F3.10 - Notices to Mariners are one of the supports used for the maintenance of a nautical chart. Therefore, the suppression of this resolution means that this information will also be removed both in the chart and in the Notices. But this would be contrary to the safety of navigation and it must be mentioned somewhere that this cartographic detail has been omitted.
- B-631.7 / TR F3.3 - As it has been said before, a Notice to Mariner is a support for the navigation. Therefore, this way is important for the validity of a nautical chart.

- B-635.2 / TR A3.2 - Being about hydrographic products where the mariner's attention is focused on the navigation as, for example, new charts, a new edition, changes in the aids, tides, etc., we agree in maintaining it. This would be very useful.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

We have made some additions to B-600 to include residual guidance from Technical Resolutions regarding other nautical publications. See also response to France below.

FRANCE

Q1: France congratulates the IHB and the members of the CSPCWG both for the quality and amount of work undertaken to prepare Section B-600.

Q2: Most of the technical resolutions which are recommended for cancellation apply equally to the maintenance of nautical charts and nautical documents and therefore cannot be replaced by the new B-600 section of the S-4 publication concerning nautical charts.

Remark: the content of TR F3.6 is also referred to in paragraphs 633.1, 633.2 and 633.3 of B-600, and not only in paragraph 633.1.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

I agree that many of the TR listed apply to the NM system in general, rather than specifically chart maintenance. Nevertheless, the principles laid down by these TR have been covered in B-600 in an orderly framework, updated as appropriate, explaining the NM system in detail. It seems unnecessary to retain the source TR which have accumulated over many years and are frequently out-of-date for modern charting practice, are not easy to search or very coherent in presenting the guidance. We have made some additions to B-600 to include residual guidance from Technical Resolutions regarding other nautical publications. A new paragraph has been added to B-630 to make this more explicit:

“This section (B-630 to B-636) provides general guidance on the NM system encompassing the maintenance of both nautical charts and publications which was contained in IHO Technical Resolutions to 2010.”

ITALY

We support the adoption of the new S-4 Section B-600 and the deletion of the relevant Technical Resolutions. It certainly represents an important step of the paper chart standardization process. The Italian implementation of the chart maintenance standard will need some time because of the consequent need to change our current organization, especially in terms of procedures and software.

JAPAN

Q2: It is clarified that Technical Resolution F2.3 is a recapitulative lists of the small corrections Notices to Mariners for chart corrections (Notices to Mariners Index), but the title of the draft B-630.6 is 'Recapitulative lists'. On the other hand, there are descriptions about regular issues of lists of temporary and preliminary Notices in force by B-633.5 and B-634.7. It may make readers confused. We propose that the title of B-630.6 should be 'Recapitulative lists of chart corrections' as well as Technical Resolution F2.3.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

The title of B-630.6 has been changed to Recapitulative lists of chart-updating NMs. A cross reference to the (T) & (P) lists has also been added.

MALAYSIA

Q2: Voted not to cancel most of the listed TR. They commented “Generally we disagree to cancel the above Technical Resolution (TR). Some of the specifications are relevant to our chart production and maintenance. We have examined the entire TR and we found that, in some cases, they are still useful and necessary for implementation in our chart production.”

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

TR will be cancelled in accordance with the votes of member states. States are at liberty to retain copies of the cancelled TR in their own documentation if that is useful. However, all the relevant guidance is still available, updated and in a more orderly layout, in the new section B-600.

NETHERLANDS

Q2: It seems “somewhat odd” that resolution F3.7 note (2) stays effective as a last remainder of the entire F-section. However assume this is taken care for in the new structure of M3 (ref CL 12/2010).

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

Agree. We have suggested to IHB that this remaining paragraph should be moved into section 2.4.1 in the revised M-3.

TURKEY

Q2:

1. As the resolution TR F3.3 (3) ‘It is resolved that those countries which issue separate Notice to Mariners for Sailing Directions and for charts shall indicate in the former whether charts are also to be corrected.’ is not covered with B631.7, therefore TN-ONHO is of the opinion that the above mentioned item should be reconsidered before removing the resolution.

2. As there is a note to emphasize that the resolution TR A3.1 covers both analog and digital format of the charts and the documents, the relevant paragraph in B635.2 may be reconsidered to reflect the TR properly.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

We have made some additions to B-600 to include residual guidance from Technical Resolutions regarding other nautical publications. See also response to France above.

UKRAINE

Q2: Voted not to cancel TR A3.1 and F3.15 with comment: “It is not necessary to remove Technical Resolutions A3.1 and F3.15. In our opinion, these TRs will force publishers to be more responsible for edition of charts, articles, etc.”

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

We have made some additions to B-600 to include residual guidance from Technical Resolutions regarding other nautical publications. See also response to France above.

ROMANIA

Q1: The Romanian Maritime Hydrographic Directorate takes good note of the work completed by the CSPCWG and agrees the proposed changes.

UNITED KINGDOM

Q1: The CSPCWG are to be commended on the development of this important new section of S-4 which will significantly enhance standardization and the understanding of chart maintenance issues.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Q1: Office of Coast Survey acknowledges that, although it is guidance only, the recommendations in B-632.6 concerning the maximum size of chartlets is not consistent with OCS policy. The size of the chartlet is directly related to area affected, number and extent of critical corrections, and the complexity of the charted correction. OCS has no further comment, and supports the changes to S-4 section B-600.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

Hydrographic Offices are encouraged to avoid the use of large size NM blocks (patches) for the reasons stated at B-632.6.

TECHNICAL RESOLUTIONS DELETED

40 or more Member States voted to cancel the following Technical Resolutions, which are therefore deleted:

Original M-3 reference	TR Number	Title
A1.15	1/1937 as amended	Dangers discovered in foreign waters
A3.1	12/1932	Notification of issue of nautical products
B1.10	4/1962	Charts for small craft
F1.1	18/1919 as amended	General Notices
F1.3	10/1932 as amended	Translation into English or French
F1.5	2/1957 as amended	Notices to Mariners correcting foreign documents
F1.6	19/1919 as amended	Expressing geographical positions
F1.7	20/1919 as amended	Periodicity of publication
F2.1	21/1919 as amended	Geographical arrangement
F2.2	22/1919	Geographical index
F2.3	1/1962 as amended	Recapitulative lists of chart corrections
F2.4	23/1919 as amended	General method of compilation. Standard form of Notices to Mariners
F2.5	11/1932	Standard system of numbering of Notices to Mariners
F2.6	24/1919	Chartlets
F3.1	12/1932	Mention of original sources
F3.2	3/1952	Marking of original Notices to Mariners
F3.3	25/1919 as amended	References to nautical publications affected by the Notice
F3.4	4/1952 as amended	Obstructions from which Navigational Aids have been removed
F3.5	3/1926 as amended	Preliminary Notices to Mariners
F3.6	4/1926 as amended	Temporary Notices to Mariners
F3.7 (1)	5/1926 as amended	Temporary and preliminary Notices in force Note: (2) will be transferred to section 2.4.1 of M-3
F3.8	6/1926 as amended	Mention of a possible additional Notice
F3.10	6/1937	Discontinuance of a light
F3.14	5/1929 as amended	Daylight saving time
F3.15	26/1919 as amended	Notification of publication or cancellation of charts and other nautical documents
F4.1	6/1929 as amended	Collection of nautical information
F4.4	4/1947	Certain radio dispatches to be printed as Notices to Mariners
F4.5	5/1947 as amended	Early exchange of Notices to Mariners