



IHB File No. S3/3061

CIRCULAR LETTER 52/2010
17 August 2010

CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO (S-4)
Approval of New and Revised Specifications and Symbols for
Pipeline and Cable Tunnels, Bridges, Wave Energy Devices,
Unsurveyed Areas, Disused or Abandoned Platforms, Shellfish Beds

References: a) IHO Publication S-4 Part B: Chart Specifications of the IHO
b) IHB CL14/2010 dated 4 February 2010

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The Directing Committee would like to thank the following 31 Member States who replied to CL 14/2010 proposing the adoption of new and revised chart specifications and symbols: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, India, Iran, Japan, Latvia, Morocco, Netherlands, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and UK.

2 All responses were supportive of the proposed specifications. Ten Member States provided comments. These comments, together with explanatory responses where appropriate, are provided in Annex A.

3. As a result, the new and revised specifications and symbols, with minor amendments noted in Annex A, will be included in the next edition of S-4, currently being prepared for publication.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Robert WARD
Director

Annex A: Member States' comments and explanatory responses

MEMBER STATES' COMMENTS

AUSTRALIA

B418.1: Australia agrees with the additional specification but has noticed that the third example for unsurveyed areas (Unsurveyed (see ZOC diagram)) has been changed from magenta to black in the new text. Australia uses magenta to define the limits of unsurveyed areas, and it was agreed at CSPCWG6 to retain the existing examples (black and magenta) as well as incorporate the new blue bands example. Australia therefore requests that the third example shown in clause B-418.1 be change back to magenta.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

This was an inadvertent change. It will be corrected in the new edition of S-4.

CANADA

381.5: We do not agree with the word TOWER due to chart clutter or space issues; we suggest the abbreviation Tr could be used, or just the generic tower symbol (the circle).

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

'TOWER' was used as the towers (in this example) are conspicuous, in accordance with S-4 B-340.2. However, the option to use 'Tr' has been added to the specification which will be published in the new edition of S-4.

COLOMBIA

B-418.1: Colombia recommends maintaining the symbol which has been represented for the unsurveyed zones, with the corresponding note. To fill it with blue lines could be confusing to the mariner, over all in shallow waters zones, in which blue color is used to attract attention.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

The new symbol is additional to existing methods of depiction and optional for Member States to use in appropriate circumstances. It conforms to the IHO aim of using intuitive symbols in preference to legends. It has been used extensively on some national charts and does not appear to cause confusion.

CUBA

The symbols proposed in this Circular Letter 14/2010 are appropriate and maintain integrality in the universe of elements included in nautical cartography. At the moment, some of them are not present in our country but we should remember that we always take into account the premise stating that the sea is universal and some of these symbols could be increasingly included, little by little, in our cartography. On another hand, it is important to reorganize and establish a robust and coherent system of nautical information at national level, so that data will be included gradually in nautical charts. For example, research work is being undertaken presently related to the use of the sea power in some places of our country. So, in a near future we might need to include symbols about these themes in our charts, as it happens with the seashells, etc.

ECUADOR

B443.8-B444. 5: we think that this detail must be included in the chart in magenta color. Even if this is not a latent danger to the mariner, he should know it to take a decision at a certain moment during his navigation.

B381.5: We agree. The most information the mariner has is the better, especially at night when a ship is entering the port. He could know, thanks to post symbols, the places where are located the bridge piles.

B381.6: Any obstruction can be found under a bridge and inside the navigable area, if it has to be mentioned, maybe with a note.

B445.12: When there is a zone with high voltage cables, this is a big danger zone. Thus, it must be mentioned with a symbol, to protect the integrity of the mariners.

B418.1: We agree with this resolution, it is very important.

B445.2f: We agree that a note must be included, to know the status of a platform, as it could be an obstacle.

B447.4: We agree, when the situation deserves it, this symbol must be shown.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

These comments support the new specifications.

FRANCE

Approval with certain reservations on the following points:

B381.5: additional points had been included in the intermediary documents which were submitted to the CSPCWG members. It concerns the end of the first sentence 'whether or not these are visible in plan view'. This expression must be added.

B-445.12: In the paragraph which precedes the symbol indicated L6.3, 'or for a single device' must be added in brackets to the written text. Once more, the corresponding symbol should be indicated by L6.1 and the other two symbols should be indicated by L6.2 in a comparable fashion to L5.1 and L5.2 symbols.

B-445.2f: even though the text is written in English, it appears that a uniformity between using the singular or the plural should be used in the second paragraph under this heading of S-4 for the expression 'platforms'. Also, reference made on point B449.7 is to be confirmed, this point has not yet been integrated into S-4.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

These suggested changes will all be included in the new edition of S-4. The section B-445.12 has been rearranged slightly, as a consequence of reallocating the INT1 references.

INDIA

B-443.8: It would be safer to depict cable symbol in case buried depths are not known.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

The specification for buried cables in unchanged. Of course, a buried depth can only be charted if known.

B-444.5: The length of the tunnel should be in proportion to the scale of the chart. This can be possible if the tunnel lengths are known. If the length is not known then depiction of submarine cable and pipelines in its original form as per INT-1 is safer for navigation.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

Cable or pipeline tunnels can only be charted as such if the necessary information is available.

B-381.5: Depiction of bridge support carrying navigational aids with a small light star may violate the standardization of charted symbols. Separate symbols may have to be created keeping in mind the creation of ENC.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

The examples are from actual published charts. In example B, the small light star has been shown for clarity, as using large light stars would overlap or obscure other detail. This is a matter for cartographic judgment.

B-445.12: The proposed symbol L6.3 may lead to confusion by understating the same related to submarine power cables instead of OREI. Therefore existing symbols (L5.1 and L5.2) for wind farm, wind farm with restricted area and the development area with a 'see Note' is recommended.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

The new symbol is black and contained in a circle. The 'flash' on submarine power cables is magenta and should not cause confusion. It would be inappropriate to use a symbol for a wind farm (consisting of highly visible turbines) to depict wave energy devices which may be almost invisible.

B-418.1: INHO has been publishing its charts as per IHO standards by demarcating the unsurveyed areas with a white band. The existing I25 for unsurveyed areas need not be changed.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

The existing symbol has not been changed; an additional intuitive symbol has been added for Member States to use if they wish, as discussed by CSPCWG following a Member State's proposal.

B-447.4: Shellfish beds as per existing INT-1, K47, K48.2 can cater for the large and small scale chart requirement for depiction of the same. States facing difficulty may adopt symbol in line with S-4 standards.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

The new symbol accords with the policy of using intuitive symbols rather than legends, and helps to reduce chart clutter particularly in inshore areas; it replaces K47 and it is hoped that Member States will choose to adopt this symbol. K48 is unaffected.

IRAN

For the Bridge support, examples E to G, could cause some complexity for users and they may be confused.

Comment by the Chairman CSPCWG:

These are examples only, from Member States' published charts, chosen to provide cartographers with solutions for showing important bridge details. Member States must be careful to choose appropriate symbols which will not confuse the chart user.

ROMANIA

The Romanian Maritime Hydrographic Directorate is grateful for the work and effort which has been undertaken to update S-4 with the additional specifications.

UNITED KINGDOM

Q1: The CSPCWG is to be commended on their careful consideration of changes required to charts to keep pace with developments in the marine environment.