



IHB File No. S3/4405

CIRCULAR LETTER 10/2010  
28 January 2010

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 CL55/2009 dated 5 August

Dear Hydrographer,

1 Chart Specifications of the IHO were originally issued in the early 1980s, providing cartographers with detailed guidance on the compilation of new nautical charts. However, no international collected and systematic guidance has ever been published on the maintenance of charts, although brief guidance on particular aspects has been issued from time to time and is mainly to be found among the IHO Resolutions, in M-3.

2 As envisaged in reference c, the Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) has prepared a draft new section B-600 for S-4, in order to provide improved guidance on the maintenance of charts. The material for this draft has been collected from internal guidance of CSPCWG member organizations, IHO resolutions and other sources. Initial drafts have been subjected to rigorous and very extensive deliberation by the members of the CSPCWG over a lengthy period. It is believed that the resulting document will provide valuable guidance on all aspects of chart maintenance, including: assessment of new source data; selection of data for urgent promulgation; the Notice to Mariners system; procedures for publishing new charts and new editions.

3 A copy of the draft is now available on the IHO website ([www.iho-ohi.net](http://www.iho-ohi.net) → Committees & WG → CSPCWG → IHO Publication S-4), for Member States to examine. In accordance with the procedure described in S-4 Specification B-160, Member States should inform the IHB ([info@ihb.mc](mailto:info@ihb.mc)) within three months if they have any major objections to the adoption of the new specifications, or any other comments that they wish to make. Member States' comments should therefore reach the IHB **no later than 28 April 2010**. If no objections are received, the IHB will issue a follow-up Circular Letter indicating that the new specifications have come into force. Please use the response form at Annex.

4 Member States, when considering this draft, are requested to bear in mind the following points:

.1 In common with the rest of S-4, this new section has application in detail to paper charts but the general principles apply equally to paper and electronic charts. Specific guidance on the maintenance of ENC has been the subject of consideration by the ENC Updating WG (EUWG) and will be published separately in due course. Indeed, in developing this new section, close liaison has been maintained with the EUWG, whose chairman has also been an active member of CSPCWG.

.2 The descriptions of New Charts, New Editions, and Notice to Mariners in sub-section B-601 differ in some details from those currently in S-4 A-400. In drafting B-600, the descriptions in A-400 were reviewed, updated and, where necessary, expanded. On publication of the new section B-600, there will be a need to review A-400 and B-128 for consequential revisions.

5 All IHO Technical Resolutions relating to aspects of chart maintenance have been examined for their currency and relevance. Where these have provided the source for guidance in the new section, this is indicated by a parenthesis in the text thus: (Technical Resolution F4.4). It is intended that on publication of the new section these Technical Resolutions will be cancelled (and the references removed from B-600). Accordingly, a list of the Technical Resolutions recommended for cancellation is provided in the Response Form and Members States are invited to indicate whether they agree they can be cancelled.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

Captain Robert WARD  
Director

Annex: Response form

**NEW SECTION OF THE CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO (S-4)**

Section B-600 Chart Maintenance

**Response Form**

(to be returned to the IHB by 28 April 2010)

E-mail: [info@ihb.mc](mailto:info@ihb.mc) - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

Note: The boxes will expand as you type your answers.

**Member State :**

**Contact :**

**E-mail :**


**1. S-4 section B-600 Chart Maintenance**

Do you have any objections to / comments on the new section B-600 ([www.ihb-mc.net](http://www.ihb-mc.net) → Committees & WG → CSPCWG → IHO Publication S-4)?

**Comments :**

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**2. Technical Resolutions**

Do you agree to cancel the following Technical Resolutions (in IHO publication M-3)? If you answer 'No', please explain in the comment section below the tables.

B-600 reference	TR No. (Para)	Title	Yes	No
601.8	F4.4	Certain radio dispatches to be printed as Notices to Mariners		
620.5	F3.4	Obstructions from which Navigational Aids have been removed		
620.5	F3.10	Discontinuance of a light		
630.1	F1.5	Notices to Mariners correcting foreign documents		
630.2	B1.10	Charts for small craft		
630.3	F1.7	Periodicity of publication		
630.4	F2.1	Geographical arrangement		
630.4	F2.2	Geographical index		
630.4	F2.3 (1)	Recapitulative lists of chart corrections		
630.4	F2.4	General method of compilation. Standard form of Notices to Mariners		
630.5	F2.5	Standard system of numbering of Notices to Mariners		
630.6	F2.3 (2-4)	Recapitulative lists of chart corrections		
630.7	F4.5	Early exchange of Notices to Mariners		
631.4	F1.3	Translation into English or French		
631.5	F1.6	Expressing geographical positions		
631.6	F3.1	Mention of original sources		
631.6	F3.2	Marking of original Notices to Mariners		
631.7	F3.3	References to nautical publications affected by the Notice		
631.8	F3.8	Mention of a possible additional Notice		
632.1	F2.6	Chartlets		
633.1	F3.6	Temporary Notices to Mariners		
633.5 & 634.7	F3.7 (1)	Temporary and preliminary Notices in force Note: (2) deals with nautical publications, not the subject of B-600		
634.1	F3.5	Preliminary Notices to Mariners		
635.2	A3.1	Notification of issue of nautical products		
635.2	F3.15	Notification of publication or cancellation of charts and other nautical documents		
635.4	A1.15 (1)	Dangers discovered in foreign waters		
635.4	F4.1	Collection of nautical information		
635.4	A1.15 (2)	Dangers discovered in foreign waters Note: (3) deals with nautical publications, not the subject of B-600		
636	F1.1	General Notices		
636	F3.14	Daylight saving time		

**Comments :**

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**Signature :**

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**Date :**

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