



IHB File No. S3/4405

CIRCULAR LETTER 81/2012  
16 August 2012

**S-4 - CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO  
Revision 4.3.0 (English version)**

References:

- A. IHO CL 07/2012 dated 26 January - Chart Specifications of the IHO (S-4)
- B. IHO CL 67/2012 dated 5 July - Chart Specifications of the IHO (S-4)  
(Member States' approval of new and revised specifications for inclusion in S-4 and one new symbol for inclusion in INT1).
- C. IHO CL 54/2011 dated 31 August - Chart Specifications of the IHO (S-4) – Revision 4.2.0

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The latest revision of S-4 (Edition 4.3.0), *Regulations of the IHO for International (INT) Charts and Chart Specifications of the IHO* has been published. The English version is now available on the IHO website at: [www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) → Standards & Publications → download IHO Publications → S-4.

2. Reference A set out CSPCWG proposals for new and revised specifications for inclusion in S-4 and one new symbol for inclusion in INT1. Reference B detailed the Member States' responses and approval of these specifications and symbol. These have now been included in S-4.

3. Additional clarifications have been included in the new edition as follows (and listed in the appropriate 'Record of Updates'):

A-202.1d, A-302.3, B-210 & B-254: advice not to print plans on the reverse side of charts.

B-100.4: a new paragraph approved by HSSC clarifying the primary purpose of nautical charts.

B-120.2: a note explaining that the lack of a space between figures and abbreviations for units, e.g. 5m not 5 m, is an exception to ISO standard 80 000. (This is in order to make S-4 consistent with charting practice, where such spaces would be inappropriate.)

B-202.4: replacing 'GPS' by the more generic 'GNSS', where appropriate.

B-422.9: on charting obstructions with appropriate legends to indicate the characteristics of the submerged obstruction, where known, e.g. 'ODAS', 'Diffuser'.

B-448.4: advice about not charting small data-recording stations on the sea floor.

4. This new edition of the English version of S-4 supersedes edition 4.2.0 which was published in August 2011 (see reference C). French and Spanish versions will be published in due course.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,

Robert WARD  
Director