



IHB File N° S3/4405

CIRCULAR LETTER 02/2013
07 January 2013

CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO (S-4)
Description of 'After disaster' surveys

References: A. IHO Publication S-4 Part B: *Chart Specifications of the IHO*
B. IHO Circular Letter 102/2012 dated 29 November 2012 - *Outcome of the Fourth Meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) and Associated IHO ECDIS Stakeholders' Forum*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Under clause 3a.ii of its Terms of Reference, the IHO Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) has a responsibility to “*advise the IHO on suggestions put forward by Member States to update S-4, in accordance with IHO Specification B-160, with the goal of achieving the maximum possible adherence by Member States to the Regulations and Specifications*”.

2. Following the 2011 tsunami that devastated parts of the coastline of Japan, the Japanese Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department has proposed that a magenta dotted line should be adopted for international use to indicate clearly on charts those areas that have been surveyed since a natural disaster such as a tsunami. This was because the consequences of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan meant that all previous surveys and hence the charted information in the affected area were no longer reliable. The CSPCWG considered several existing charting options but concluded that none of these were appropriate to meet such circumstances. Therefore CSPCWG agreed that the proposed magenta dotted line could be used in such ‘after disaster’ circumstances, together with an obligatory explanatory note on the charts.

3. The CSPCWG further agreed that grey tint could be used to highlight the area concerned on the Source/ZOC diagram, noting that blue, green and magenta are already being used on the diagrams for other purposes (see S-4 B-293.8).

4. The CSPCWG also decided that ZOC category ‘D’, meaning ‘large depth anomalies may be expected’, should be used to reclassify areas which had not been resurveyed since the disaster. This conclusion has subsequently been endorsed by the Data Quality Working Group (DQWG). Following consideration by TSMAD, the fourth meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC4) endorsed the inclusion of new guidance within S-57 Appendix B.1 Annex A - *Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC*, to reflect the option to downgrade CATZOC values to D after extreme events (see ref. B). This is consistent with this new specification.

5. Although this new arrangement will be explained in S-4 (at B-417.8), it was agreed that it should not be included in INT1, since to do so might encourage a wider use of the line style by chart compilers (for example, to highlight better surveys on the face of the chart generally) and thereby undermine its specific value in the aftermath of disasters such as a tsunami, sub-sea earthquake or hurricane.

6. The proposed new specification and symbol are included at Annex A to this CL for Member States to review.

7. The Directing Committee notes that the proposed specification calls for delimiting the area affected by the aftermath of a disaster on the ZOC diagram; however, no alternative option or explanation is provided when ZOC diagrams are not available on the chart(s) concerned. In the circumstances, Member States are invited to consider whether CSPCWG should be further requested to develop more detailed guidance on how mariners should be informed about the limits of areas where pre-disaster surveys are no longer reliable.

8. According to S-4 Specification B-160, Member States should inform the IHB (info@iho.int) within three months if they have any major objections to the adoption of this new specification and symbol, or any other comments. Therefore, Member States' comments should reach the IHB no later than 7 April 2013, using the Response Form at Annex B.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gilles Bessero', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Gilles BESSERO
Director

Annex A: Proposed new specification and symbol
Annex B: Response form

PROPOSED NEW SPECIFICATION AND SYMBOL

B-417.8 After disaster surveys. As a result of some disasters, such as: earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, it is possible that large areas of seafloor have moved and/or become cluttered with dangerous obstructions. Emergency surveys may be conducted to cover essential shipping routes and inside harbours. Outside these surveyed areas, much of the existing charted detail may then be considered suspect, however good the previous surveys may have been. In such cases, the limits of the emergency surveys may usefully be indicated on charts by a magenta dotted line. As this is not an INT1 symbol, an explanation should always be added to the chart (for example, ‘Limit of survey after 2011 earthquake’) along the inside of the limit (see B-439.6), or for small areas within or adjacent to it, for example:



Limit of survey
after 2011 earthquake

If additional emphasis is required, the newly surveyed area may be highlighted on the Source or ZOC diagram with tint. The tint should be grey but may be another colour except green, blue or magenta (see B-293.8 and B-297.2). On ZOC diagrams, the areas of bathymetry outside the re-surveyed area must be reclassified; usually category ‘D’ will be appropriate, as large depth anomalies and new obstructions may now be expected.

An additional bullet point will be included at B-293.8 as follows:

- Grey tint may be included to highlight areas covered by after disaster surveys (see B-417.8).

A new paragraph will be added at B-297.2:

Grey tint (or another colour except green, blue or magenta) may be used to highlight areas covered by after disaster surveys (see B-417.8).

CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO (S-4)
‘After disaster’ surveys

Response Form

(to be returned to the IHB by 7 April 2013)
E-mail: info@iho.int - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

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

Member State:

Contact:

E-mail:

Question 1

Do you agree with the new specification and symbol for ‘After disaster surveys’?

If you answer ‘No’, please explain your reasons in the comment section below the table.

No	S-4 references	Title	Yes	No
1	B-417.8	After disaster surveys: new specification and symbol		
2	B-293.8	Additional bullet point		
3	B-497.2	Additional paragraph		

Comments :

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Question 2

Should additional guidance be developed by CSPCWG on how to depict the limits of areas where pre-disaster surveys are no longer reliable? Yes No

Comments :

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Signature :

Date :
