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CIRCULAR LETTER 55/2013
3 October 2013

S-4 - CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO
Revision 4.4.0 (English version)

References:

- A. IHO CL 43/2013 dated 5 July - *Revision of the Chart Specifications of the IHO (S-4) Section B-300 – Topography.*
- B. IHO CL 42/2013 dated 5 July - *Chart Specifications of the IHO (S-4) Approval of new symbol and specifications for 'After disaster' surveys.*
- C. IHO CL 44/2013 dated 8 July - *Revision of the Chart Specifications of the IHO (S-4) Adoption of a 'generic' light flare on multicoloured paper charts.*
- D. IHO CL 81/2012 dated 16 August - *Chart Specifications of the IHO (S-4) – Revision 4.3.0.*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The latest revision of S-4 (Edition 4.4.0), *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 → Standards & Publications → download IHO Publications → S-4.

2. The main reason for this new edition is the inclusion of the revision of the Section B-300 - Topography which has been recently approved by Member States, as reported in reference A.

3. The opportunity has also been taken to include other new specifications approved by Member States, as follows:

B-293.8, B-297.2, B-417.8: new specifications on 'After disaster' surveys (see reference B);
B-142.1, B-470.4a, B-470.6, B-494, B-495.4: new specification on the 'Generic magenta light flare on multicoloured charts' (see reference C).

4. Additional clarifications resulting from discussions within the CSPCWG (listed in the appropriate 'Record of Updates') and editorial amendments have been included in the new edition as follows:

- A-204.2: reallocation of INT numbers for polar regions and special charts (the diagram at A-204.8 has also been updated).
 - B-120.6: clarification on obsolete or obsolescent symbols in S-4.
 - B-125.3: specification for the positioning of symbols transferred from former B-305.
 - B-127: clarification on the use of continuous black lines.
 - B-133: clarification on text styles (for 'wet' and 'dry' features).
 - B-201.3: clarification on the desirability to adopt WGS84 datum.
 - B-422.9: specification for submerged stumps transferred from former B-327.5.
 - B-424: clarification on reports of uncharted islands.
 - B-428.4: new specification for underwater volcanic activity, to conform to new specification B-355.1.
 - B-435f: clarification on naming routeing measures on charts.
 - B-443.7: clarification on charting disused cables.
 - B-444: clarification on determining the purpose of pipelines.
 - B-445.6: clarification on charting safety zones around FPSO.
 - B-447.6: clarification on charting areas of marine farms.
 - B-457.3: clarification on charting disused lighthouses.
 - B-462.5: clarification on charting toroidal-shaped buoys.
 - B-470.4a: further clarifications to charting lights on multicoloured charts.
 - C-408.1: clarification on charting submarine cables (to be consistent with B-443).
- Index to Part C: removed for consistency with other parts; no longer maintained and digital search facilities are available.

5. This new edition of the English version of S-4 has been prepared by the Chair and the Secretary of the IHO Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG). The Directing Committee acknowledges their continuing contribution and reiterates its gratitude to the UK Hydrographic Office for making them available to conduct this task.

6. This new edition supersedes edition 4.3.0 which was published in August 2012 (see reference D). The corresponding French and Spanish versions will be published in due course.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Gilles Bessero', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gilles BESSERO
Director