



IHB File N° S3/4405

CIRCULAR LETTER 73/2013
20 December 2013

**REVISION OF CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO (S-4)
SECTION B-500
Text: Language, Numbers, Abbreviations, Names, Styles and Fonts**

Reference: IHO Publication S-4 Part B - *Chart Specifications of the IHO*, Edition 4.4.0

Dear Hydrographer,

1. In accordance with its Terms of Reference and Work Plan, the IHO Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) is continuing with the review and revision of Part B of IHO Publication S-4 (see Reference). CSPCWG has now prepared a draft revision of the section B-500 – Text: Language, Numbers, Abbreviations, Names, Styles and Fonts. A clean copy of the draft (in English only) is available for inspection on the IHO website at www.iho.int → Standards & Publications → Download IHO Publications → Draft Publications Awaiting Approval by Member States. A complementary copy, with the changes highlighted, is also available at www.iho.int → Standards & Publications → download IHO Publications → Draft Publications for discussions. This working document was prepared to assist translators, but may be useful in identifying the areas of change. However, as the format in this latter version has not been updated, it should be used with caution.
2. The revision of S-4 B-500 includes many improvements to the text to make it more consistent with other parts of S-4, as well as numerous amendments, amplifications, additions and updates. Noteworthy changes to the existing Specifications are listed in **Annex A** to this letter.
3. According to Specification B-160 of S-4, Member States should inform the IHB (info@iho.int) within three months if they have any major objections to the adoption of these revised Specifications, or any other comments. Therefore, any comments from Member States should reach the IHB **no later than 20 March 2014**, using the Response Form at **Annex B**. If no objections are received, the IHB will announce in a follow-up Circular Letter that the revised Specifications have come into force. The CSPCWG will then include them in the next edition of S-4.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Gilles BESSERO
Director

Annex A: Noteworthy Changes to Section B-500 of the Chart Specifications of the IHO (S-4)
Annex B: Response Form

**NOTEWORTHY CHANGES TO SECTION B-500 OF THE
CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO (S-4)**

- B-500 This is a new introductory sub-section on Geographical Names Bodies.
- B-501 This sub-section has been completely revised using the current UN definitions (where applicable to hydrographic names), taken from the UNGEGN Glossary of Terms. Several new terms with definitions have been added.
- B-510 Revisions made to improve the existing text. The guidance on toponymy (B-510.2-3) is now transferred to B-550. Guidance specific to International charts has been transferred to B-521 and B-552.
- B-522 The very restrictive punctuation list has been replaced by more general guidance.
- B-530 The guidance on expressing whole numbers and decimal parts has been clarified taking ISO standards into consideration.
- B-550 The guidance on toponymy has been brought together in this enlarged section, which now includes a simplified rendering of IHO Resolution 8/1919 (as amended).
- B-551.1 IHO publication B-1 'General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans' has been replaced by B-9 'GEBCO Digital Atlas'. Under IHO B-8 'Gazetteer of Geographical Names of Undersea Features', a reference has been added to the recently announced on-line GEBCO Gazetteer (CL 68/2013 refers).
- B-552 This sub-section now provides specific guidance for toponyms on International charts.
- B-560 A completely new sub-section has been included to give general cartographic guidance on placement of names and legends on charts.
- B-561-3 The word 'type' has been eliminated (because it belongs to out-dated production techniques). Instead, text 'styles' (e.g. upright, sloping, light, bold) and 'fonts' (e.g. Arial, Times) are used. This change will be reflected in the other sections of S-4, as appropriate, in the next edition.

**REVISION OF SECTION B-500 OF
CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO (S-4)
Text: Language, Numbers, Abbreviations, Names, Styles and Fonts**

Response Form

(to be returned to the IHB by 20 March 2014)

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:

Do you agree with the revised section B-500 of S-4 (see www.iho.int → Standards & Publications → Download IHO Publications → Draft Publications Awaiting Approval by Member States)?

If you answer 'No', please explain in the comment section below.

Yes

No

Comments:

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Signature:

Date:

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