



IHB File No. S3/4405

CIRCULAR LETTER 38/2014
13 May 2014

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

Text: Language, Numbers, Abbreviations, Names, Styles and Fonts

- References:
- A. IHO Circular Letter 73/2013 dated 20 December 2013 - *Revision of the Chart Specifications of the IHO (S-4) – Section B-500 - Text: Language, Numbers, Abbreviations, Names, Styles and Fonts*
 - B. IHO Publication S-4 Part B - *Chart Specifications of the IHO*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Reference A proposed the adoption of a revised Section B-500 to the IHO Chart Specifications. The Directing Committee would like to thank the following 40 Member States that replied: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and USA.
2. All Member States supported the proposals, with the exception of Cyprus and Greece. All comments and the outcome of their review by the Chair of the Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) and the IHB are provided in the Annex to this letter.
3. The revised section B-500, taking into account the comments in Annex A, will be included in the next revision of IHO Publication S-4.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gilles Bessero', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Gilles BESSERO
Director

Annex A: Member States' Responses to CL 73/2013 and comments from the CPSCWG Chair and the IHB.

**MEMBER STATES' RESPONSES TO CL 73/2013 AND COMMENTS
FROM THE CSPCWG CHAIR AND FROM THE IHB
SECTION B-500**

Text: Language, Numbers, Abbreviations, Names, Styles and Fonts

AUSTRALIA

Editorial: B-501: For consistency, commence all definitions (i.e. after the colon) with capitals (Legend, Descriptive term, Toponym, Generic term, Simplex name, Composite name).

Editorial: B-501: In the definition for Transcription both "eg:" and "Examples" are written. Remove one (suggest "Examples: " for consistency).

Comment from Chairman CSPCWG: Changes suggested by Australia (definitions starting with capitals) will be applied to B-501. The IHB has indicated a preference for 'For example' to be used in place of the abbreviation 'eg' to facilitate understanding by non-native English speakers. This change will be included editorially in section B-500 and throughout S-4 as opportunity arises.

CROATIA

Croatia has no objection on revised section B-500 of IHO Pub S-4. We consider amendments very important and useful for the process of paper chart production and updating. Croatia once again highly appreciates the work of CSPCWG Working Group on the revised section B-500.

Comment from Chairman CSPCWG: Thank you for these expressions of support. It is worth noting that, as explained in section B-100, much of the portrayal of features on charts specified in S-4 is relevant to both electronic and paper charts.

CYPRUS

We do not agree with the practice of using allonyms on charts.

Comment from IHB: See comment to the response from Greece.

GREECE

Greece cannot go along with the definition of allonym as it is stated in the revised section B-500 of S-4. She would prefer to strictly follow the UNGEGN definition without any supplementary notes which do not reflect the standing approved definition, which is:

UNGEGN 005 allonym

Each of two or more toponyms employed in reference to a single topographic feature. Examples: Hull, Kingston upon Hull; Vesterhavet, Nordsee; Swansea, Abertawe; Johannesburg, Egoli.

Comment from the IHB: Considering the dissenting opinions from Cyprus and Greece and the wider implications of considering the use of allonyms in nautical charts, the Directing Committee has concluded that inserting the definition of allonym in S-4 cannot proceed. As a result, it will not be included in the next edition of S-4, further noting that the definition is not referred to elsewhere in the section or in other sections of S-4.

MEXICO

In this country, we consider that it is important for all the IHO Member States to have a generalized type of font and style, so that the texts on nautical charts be legible, compatible, thus facilitating the translation between the nations, as well as achieving cartographic legibility, consistency and order.

Comment from Chairman CSPCWG: Thank you for these expressions of support.