

## Abbreviations in MSI

Submitted by Baltic Sea Sub-area, Sweden

### SUMMARY

Executive Summary: The document illustrates the need for an internationally agreed set of abbreviations which could be used in Navigational Warnings as well as in Meteorological warnings and messages.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 7

Related documents: 10/4/5

### Introduction

1. The available time and/or space for promulgating MSI in written form is sometimes restricted. This may enforce the use of abbreviations which in turn may affect the readability of MSI messages and consequently the safety at sea, if an abbreviation would be misinterpreted.

2. JCOMM has contributed to solve this by compiling a list of abbreviations intended for the transmissions of scheduled weather forecasts on NAVTEX. The list has been published on the JCOMM GMDSS-website ( [http://weather.gmdss.org/navtex\\_abbreviations.html](http://weather.gmdss.org/navtex_abbreviations.html) ) and will be presented by WMO to CPRNW in the paper CPRNW 10.4.5.

3. The use of abbreviations in MSI was an issue at the Baltico Meeting in Hamburg in April 2008. At the meeting Baltic Sea Sub-area co-ordinator presented a paper which included the JCOMM list of abbreviations with following additions:

M/S = Metres per second

MSL = Mean Sea Level

24-HR = 24 hours

( <http://www.sjofartsverket.se/pages/17416/2008%20Agenda%208%20Abbreviations.pdf> )

Even though all of the JCOMM abbreviations will not be used in the Baltic Sea area the Baltico Meeting agreed on the use of the modified list of abbreviations.

At the Baltico meeting Hydrographic Offices within the Baltic Sea area were recommended to publish the list of abbreviations in relevant national nautical publications.

### Conclusion

4. In spite of the fact that incorrect use of abbreviations in MSI could jeopardize the safety at sea the use of abbreviations is in some cases necessary.

5. For that reason the coming IHO/IMO/WMO Manual on MSI is suggested to include some recommendations on the use of abbreviations including an internationally accepted list of relevant abbreviations for all kinds of MSI.

6. Annex 1 shows a draft for a suggested recommendation to be included in relevant publications and a suggested list of abbreviations to be used in Navigational Warnings as well as Meteorological Warnings and Messages.

### **Recommendations**

7. CPRNW is requested to consider the suggestions in this document.

**The use of abbreviations in MSI in written form**

Abbreviations in MSI should if possible be avoided.

If the use of abbreviations is unavoidable many adjacent abbreviations in one sentence should be avoided.

Only the following abbreviations may be used:

		<b>Comments by Baltico</b>
24-HR	24 hours	New suggested by Baltico
APPROX	Approximately	New suggested by Baltico
BACK	Backing	
BECMG	Becoming	
BLDN	Building	
CBM	Cubic Meter	New suggested by Baltico
C-FRONT	Cold Front	
DECR	Decreasing	
DISCONT	Discontinued	New suggested by Baltico
DPN	Deepening	
DW-ROUTE	Deep Water Route	
E	East/Easterly	
EXP	Expected	
ESTABL	Established	New suggested by Baltico
FCST	Forecast	
FLN	Filling	
FLW	Following	
FM	From	
FRQ	Frequent	
HPA	Hectopascal	
HVY	Heavy	
IMP	Important	New suggested by Baltico
IMPR	Improving/Improve	
INCR	Increasing	
INTSF	Intensifying/Intensify	
ISOL	Isolated	
KMH	km/h	
KT	Knots	
LAT/LONG	Latitude/Longitude	
LOC	Locally	
LT	Local Time	New suggested by Baltico
M	Metres	Suggested to be deleted (not abbreviated)
M/S	Metres per second	New suggested by Baltico
MET	Meteo	
MOD	Moderate	
MOV	Moving/Move	
MSL	Mean Sea Level	New suggested by Baltico
N	North/Northerly	
NAV	Navigational	New suggested by Baltico

NC	No change	
NE	Northeast/Northeasterly	
NM	Nautical Mile	
NOSIG	No significant change	
NTM	Notices to Mariners	New suggested by Baltico
NW	Northwest/Northwesterly	
NXT	Next	
OCNL	Occasionally	
ODAS BUOY	Oceanographic Data acquisition System buoy	
O-FRONT	Occlusion Front	
OPS	Operations	New suggested by Baltico
POSS	Possible	
PREL	Preliminary	
PROB	Probability/Probable	
PSN	Position	New suggested by Baltico
QCKY	Quickly	Is both QCKY and RPDY needed?
QSTNR	Quasi-Stationary	Suggested to be deleted
QUAD	Quadrant	
RPDY	Rapidly	Is both QCKY and RPDY needed?
S	South/Southerly	
SCT	Scattered	
SE	Southeast/Southeasterly	
SEV	Severe	
SHWRS	Showers	
SIG	Significant	
SLGT	Slight	
SLWY	Slowly	
SPM BUOY	Single Point Mooring Buoy	
STBD	Starboard	New suggested by Baltico
STNR	Stationary	
STRG	Strong	
S	Southwest/Southwesterly	
TEMPO	Temporarily/Temporary	TEMP preferred by Baltico
TEND	Further outlooks	
TSS	Traffic Separation Scheme	
UTC	Universal Time Coordinated	New suggested by Baltico
W	West/Westerly	
WARN	Warning	New suggested by Baltico
VEER	Veering	
W-FRONT	Warm Front	
VIS	Visibility	
WKN	Weakening	
VRB	Variable	

Note: The international list of abbreviations for MSI is recommended to be included in the websites of Meteo Institutes and Hydrographic Offices as well as NtM and other relevant publications.