

Standard abbreviations for NAVTEX messages

Submitted by Sweden

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides suggestions for amendments to the WMO list of standard abbreviations which may be used in MSI messages.

Action to be taken: 3

1. Background

The Baltic Sea Sub-area Co-ordinator has, in his comments to the revised draft of the IMO NAVTEX Manual, suggested that the WMO list of abbreviations also should include abbreviations as may be used in Navigational Warnings, if deemed necessary.

The secretary of the IMO NAVTEX Co-ordinating Panel has asked the Sub-area Co-ordinator to prepare some suggestions for abbreviations to start from, when discussing this item at WWNWS 2 in Sydney.

2. Suggestions

If possible abbreviations in MSI should be avoided.

However, the short transmission time slots on NAVTEX make it sometimes necessary to use abbreviations, in particular in weather forecasts. This is not any problem if the applied abbreviations are well known to the mariner. For example abbreviations like GPS, VHF and GMDSS are well known by mariners and make it easier and faster to read a text. These abbreviations do not need to be in the list of abbreviations.

Many abbreviations in one and the same sentence could make it difficult to read the text. Attention must be paid to this when drafting weather forecasts and navigational warnings.

The existing WMO list of abbreviations is a good help when drafting weather forecasts but does not give much help if an abbreviation is needed in a Navigational Warning.

Following amendments are suggested to make the list more usable also for Navigational Warnings:

a) The list should be changed to *alphabetically order*.

b) Following abbreviations are suggested *to be added* to the present WMO list:

JAN	January (all months should be abbreviated by the three first letters)
24-HR	24 hours / All round the clock
M/S	Metres per second
MSL	Mean Sea Level
MSG	Message
INT	International / Internationally
CH	Radio channel (ex. VHF CH16)
MSI	Maritime Safety Information
SAR	Search And Rescue
OP	Operation / Operations
NTM	Notices to Mariners
M/V	Motor vessel

d) Following abbreviations are suggested *to be deleted* from the present WMO list:

M	Metres should not be abbreviated (M is used for Nautical Miles in lights characteristics) .
QSTNR	The word quasi-stationary is seldom used and should not be abbreviated

c) Following *recommendations* are suggested to be added in connection to the list of abbreviations:

Name of ship and its callsign, if any, should be written: M/V SYDNEY/HJKL

The @-sign in e-mail addresses should be written: MSI(AT)SJOFARTSVERKET.SE

3. Actions requested

The Sub-Committee is asked to pay attention to the above suggested changes to the list of abbreviations when redrafting the IMO NAVTEX Manual.