

10th CSPWG MEETING
Wellington, New Zealand, 21-24 January, 2014

Paper for Consideration by CSPCWG
Interrupted and ultra quick lights

Submitted by:	Secretary
Executive Summary:	CSPCWG9 Action 13 was: Secretary to inform IALA of CSPCWG preference for usage of Q and VQ in groups and discontinuation of IQ and IVQ.
Related Documents:	CSPCWG9-08.1B; S-12
Related Projects:	

Introduction / Background.

1. *'For quick and very quick flashing lights, there exist both the classes 'group' and 'interrupted' (i.e. group quick and interrupted quick, etc). The question is - what is the difference between a group class and an interrupted class?'*

This question was originally raised by AU in January 2012, in an email to Secretary CSPCWG. It was discussed at CSPCWG9 and subsequently discussed by Secretary with UK's IALA representatives, in a meeting and by correspondence. It has proven unexpectedly difficult to resolve.

2. Extract from CSPCWG9 report:

Interrupted lights: It was agreed that options for expressing lights as 'interrupted' or 'group' should not exist for the same character. IALA Maritime Buoyage System cardinal lights (which may be Q or VQ) require the number in group to be stated, eg VQ(3). UQ lights are not used in the IALA system and the light flashes too fast to count the number in group. It was therefore decided that only group characters for Q and VQ should be allowed, while all groups of UQ lights should be expressed as interrupted (with the period if available), eg IUQ.10s. Some VQ lights are currently charted without specifying the number in group, which is presumably not known; these will need to be defined by the appropriate authority.

ACTION 13: Secretary to inform IALA of CSPCWG preference for usage of Q and VQ in groups and discontinuation of IQ and IVQ.

ACTION 14: IHB to consider how S-12 should be updated.

Analysis / Discussion.

3. UK's IALA representatives met with Secretary CSPCWG and noted that:

Group v Interrupted. One development is that IALA have removed the definitions UQ and IUQ from the IALA Navguide. Presumably all lights with flashes > 80 flashes per minute should be charted as VQ? There was still no consensus on how group Q/VQ should be distinguished from IQ/IVQ, but one possible distinction is that cardinal lights should always be charted in the form Q or VQ(3), (6) and (9), while groups of non-cardinal Q and VQ should be charted as IQ/IVQ, with the period. (Roger Barker undertook to consult further, especially with Malcolm Nicholson.)

4. Also in an email dated 4 October 2013, Captain Roger Barker (Chairman of the IALA ANM Operations Working Group) wrote:

The next IALA Aid to Navigation Management (ANM) Committee will be week of 14th Oct [2013] and at that meeting we will remind the membership of the committee that **interrupted lights have been removed from the IALA Navguide and recommendations (E-110 attached for information).**

We believe, as you have indicated that **existing applications will more appropriately be covered by the more normal Group Flashing designation.**

5. In an email dated 21 November 2013, Captain Phil Day (Chairman of the IALA ANM committee) wrote:

In discussion with our Scandinavian colleagues who operate most of the Q v INT lights they agreed to look at changing the characteristics description to another descriptor such as VQ8. However this will take time to carry out. So despite there being no IALA description for these lights and an intention to phase them out they will continue to exist for a while.

6. UK understands that there are 23 IQ lights worldwide, 14 IVQ lights (all in Sweden) and 4 IUQ lights (all in Finland).

Conclusions.

7. The terms 'Interrupted' and 'Ultra quick' no longer have any meaning in IALA guidance. It is therefore no longer appropriate for IHO to use these terms in our standards or on our charts.

Recommendations.

Remove Interrupted and Ultra Quick as options from S-4. Add some advice on replacing 'interrupted' lights with 'group' lights.

Mark their associated abbreviations obsolescent in INT1 (P10.6-8).

All references to Very Quick should be amended to 'repetition rate more than 80 flashes per minute').

IHB to arrange to amend references in S-12 as necessary.

Inform TSMAD and DIPWG of the need to amend their standards accordingly.

Inform HDWG of the need to amend S-32 accordingly.

Finland to consider a 'non-INT' description for the remaining IUQ lights.

The resultant IHO CL should advise all MS to amend all interrupted Q and VQ lights to group lights (and change UQ and IUQ lights if any).

Justification and Impacts.

Removes the uncertainty about the difference (if any) between group and interrupted lights.

Brings charting practice into line with IALA guidance.

Some changes to IHO standards and INT1.

Action required of CSPCWG.

The CSPCWG is invited to discuss and endorse the recommendations as appropriate.