

10th CSPWG MEETING

Wellington, New Zealand, 21-24 January, 2014

Paper for Consideration by CSPCWG

Counterfeited Products

Submitted by:	UK
Executive Summary:	UKHO has recently seen an increase in the number of counterfeit copies of its charts and publications in circulation. The increase seems to coincide with the difficult trading conditions in the shipping industry.
Related Documents:	IHO CL22/2013
Related Projects:	None

Text of IHO CL22/2013

1. The UKHO has informed the Directing Committee of the circulation of counterfeit copies of its Admiralty charts and publications. No examples of counterfeit versions of paper charts or publications produced by other Hydrographic Offices have been identified so far.
2. The Directing Committee is also aware that the IMO has recently alerted the distributors of its publications of instances of counterfeit copies of IMO publications. If UKHO and IMO products are being copied illegally it may be possible that products from other Member States' Hydrographic Offices are also at risk.
3. Counterfeit products are, by definition, not issued officially by or on the authority of a Government, authorised Hydrographic Office or other relevant government institution. Consequently, they do not satisfy the carriage requirements of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (Chapter V, Regulations 2.2 and 19.2.1.4 of the Convention refer). They may also be out of date or contain errors or omissions caused by the counterfeiting process.
4. Counterfeit products deny government chart and publications producers, and any other States that may receive royalties for data being included in the charts or publications, from recovering money that is normally used to continue to maintain and improve the products, for example, through revisions and Notices to Mariners services.
5. The circulation and use of counterfeit copies of charts and nautical publications therefore have potentially serious consequences both for safety of navigation and chart carriage compliance and as a loss of valuable funding for the producer nation and any of its data contributors that may receive royalties.
6. The Directing Committee invites Member States to consider alerting chart and nautical publications users, ship inspectors, regulators and product distributors to exercise vigilance and to inform the official originator of a chart or publication and the Directing Committee of any instances of counterfeiting.
7. The UKHO has published a simple guide to help confirm the authenticity of its own Admiralty products. The guide can be downloaded from <http://bit.ly/admiralty-genuine> [copy at Annex]. A

number of the guidelines that help identify counterfeit Admiralty products apply equally to chart and nautical products published by other Hydrographic Offices.

Further defence mechanisms have been implemented since publication of CL22/2013, which include:

- A 'UV Matt Varnished' image (of a UKHO crest), placed on the glossy front of publications. This crest becomes visible when looking at a publication from certain angles. It is very hard to reproduce and disrupts photocopying.
- A 'void pantograph' on charts. This is a method of making copy-evident and tamper-resistant patterns in the background of a document. Normally these are invisible to the eye, but become obvious when the document is photocopied. Typically they spell out "void", "copy", "invalid" or some other indicator message.

Action required of CSPCWG.

UK would be very interested to learn whether other HOs have become aware of counterfeited products being marketed and what they are doing to combat this practice.

A Guide to Identifying Genuine Admiralty Products February 2013

Charts

Suspicious charts can be compared to existing stock. Genuine charts bear the Admiralty “Flying A” watermark within the paper, which can be seen by holding the chart up to the light.

A suspicious chart may not be folded correctly. This can be checked by comparing its folds to a similar sized Admiralty chart.

The ‘look and feel’ of a suspicious chart can be compared to a genuine Admiralty chart. If the ink on a chart looks to be a different colour tone, weight or feel then it is probably a counterfeit copy.

Every Admiralty chart carries a ‘thumb label’ strip on the reverse of the chart that contains the Admiralty logo, the chart number, the geographic area featured, a barcode and date.

Publications

Check the height - all Admiralty publications within the same category are the same height (e.g. all Sailing Directions are all the same). The height of a book can be compared to others in the same Admiralty category.

All Admiralty publications are printed to identical print standards. If a publication looks different to a genuine publication, it is almost certainly a counterfeit. Please note that the Admiralty branding is changing and so comparisons need to be made between publications carrying the same branding.

The quality of the print can be inspected. If a book has uneven pages, inconsistent margins, variable ink strength or unfamiliar paper it is almost certainly counterfeit.

The binding can be checked. Genuine publications are tightly bound.

Counterfeit publications may have a weak spine and even text on the inside of the spine.

The cover can be checked. All genuine Sailing Directions are hardbound and all genuine Lights Lists are limp bound.

A new edition can be compared to the previous edition to see if there are differences in look and feel.

Anyone with suspicions over the authenticity of their Admiralty charts and publications is asked to contact the UKHO by emailing customerservices@ukho.gov.uk.