



IHB FILE N° S3/4405

CIRCULAR LETTER 44/1993
30 September 1993

CHANGES TO THE CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO : M-4
(formerly MP-004)
Major Floating Lights

- References:
1. M-4 (formerly MP-004): Chart Specifications of the IHO, paragraph 160 and Section 400.
 2. INT 1 sections IM, IP, IQ, IR and IS.

Dear Sir,

1. Modern major floating aids to navigation may be structures such as light-vessels, major light-floats and LANBYs, and they normally carry similar types and standards of light and electronic equipment. A number of Lighthouse Authorities find it desirable to interchange the type of structure on some stations in order to provide the required level of service. If this interchange is carried out on a regular basis, it requires the frequent issue of Notices to Mariners and correction of charts and other documents, as the Chart Specifications of the IHO (M-4) provide different symbols for each type of aid.
2. In 1989 the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) asked the Chart Standardization Committee (CSC) to consider whether a single symbol could be used for all major floating aids to avoid the need for such corrections.
3. The members of the CSC agreed with the principle of the request, although considerable time was spent in agreeing a symbol for use.
4. It is now additionally agreed that there is no need to draw a distinction between major floating aids and superbuoys. It is proposed that a slightly modified version of the superbuoy symbol be used to denote any of these various types of major floating navigational aid. The changes which will be required to the Chart Specifications of the IHO (M-4), and thus to INT 1, are shown in Annexes A and B.
5. The procedures for adopting amendments were agreed at the XIIIth I.H. Conference in 1987 and are detailed in paragraph 160 of M-4. Unless major objections are received from Member States within three months of the date of this Circular Letter, this change will be recirculated, signifying that the amended Specifications have come into force.
6. As regards the amendments to INT 1, the Hydrographic Offices of Germany and France, respective producers of the English and French versions of this publication on behalf of the IHO, are kindly requested to take these corrections into account, once they have been agreed upon, when new editions of INT 1 are issued.

7. The amendments to INT 1 have not been translated into Spanish as the Bureau is not aware of the possible existence of a Spanish INT 1. We take this opportunity to ascertain whether there is any Spanish-language Member State who might volunteer to produce the Spanish version of INT 1 and be willing to make available a sufficient number of copies for distribution to the other Member States interested.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Giuseppe Angrisano
Rear Admiral Giuseppe ANGRISANO
Director

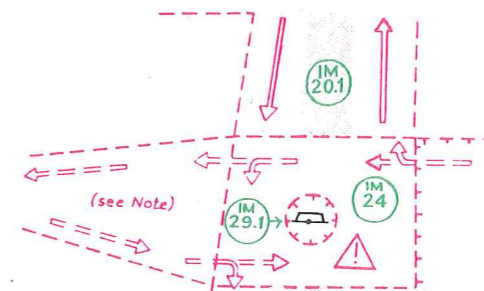
Encl. (2): Annexes A and B

AMENDMENTS TO THE "CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO"

ANNEX A
to IHB CL 44/1993

435 EXAMPLES OF ROUTEING MEASURES (page 1-400.45)

Amend symbol in centre of area IM29.1 to show a major floating light IP6.



435.7 Areas to be avoided

Replace second sentence of a. by:

Areas to be avoided range in size from small circular ones 'protecting' certain vital buoys or major floating lights to much larger areas protecting natural features, such as parts of the Great Barrier Reef. IM29.1, IM29.2

445.4 Offshore tanker loading systems

Replace third sentence by:

They will always be lighted and the light character shall be charted in the same way as for other major floating lights.

450 AIDS TO NAVIGATION, AUDIBLE AND VISUAL: GENERAL

Replace a, c and d by:

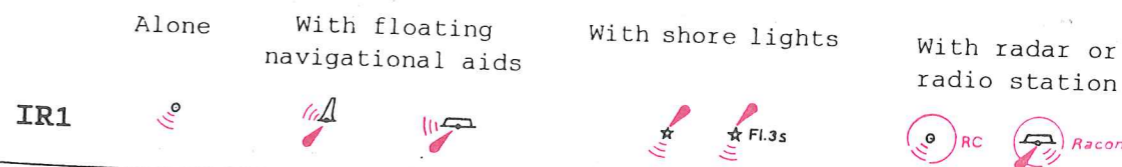
a. Fog signals, which are usually associated with a lighthouse, major floating light or buoy. The lettering of the abbreviations for fog signals may be upright or sloping, depending on the nature of the basic structure.

c. Buoys, including minor light-floats. Associated lettering should be sloping.

d. Major floating lights. Associated lettering should be sloping.

452.8 Type of signal not stated

Replace examples of use of fog signal symbol IR 1 by:



460.4 The size of buoys...

Replace the second sentence by:

It is considered practicable to distinguish on charts between only two sizes of buoys (apart from major floating lights - see 474, and spar buoys - see 462.2):

Replace the second sentence of paragraph b by:

The two principal types of super-buoy are:

Delete sub-paragraph b.i. (LANBYs)

Reletter sub-paragraph b.ii. as b.i., and b.iii. as b.ii.

460.5 Seasonal buoyage

Replace the first sentence by:

Seasonal buoyage: in certain waters many buoys and major floating lights are withdrawn for the duration of adverse seasonal conditions eg ice conditions in winter and heavy seas associated with monsoons.

462 SHAPES OF BUOYS

Replace the third sentence by:

In practice, there will remain some additional shapes, eg minor light-floats and barrel buoys, which will require their own symbols.

462.1 Features common to all buoys


Replace the third sentence by:

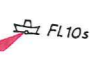
Buoy symbols, but not major floating lights, minor light-floats or super-buoys, shall preferably be shown sloping to the right.

462.8 Light-float

Replace by:


Minor light-floats, typically 9 metres or less in length, are used in partially-sheltered locations where the velocity of the tide or current renders a float preferable to a buoy. See 474 for larger light-floats serving as major floating lights.


eg.  IQ30 (part of IALA System)

eg.  IQ31 (not part of IALA System)

462.9 Super-buoy

Replace by:

The basic symbol  IQ26 should be used for the very large buoys referred to in 460.4.b, and for major floating lights (see 474).

The purpose of an ODAS buoy should be indicated by a legend  ODAS IQ58.

Where a super-buoy is used as a tanker loading mooring, see 445.4.

470 LIGHTS: GENERAL POINTS

Replace by:

These specifications include lights of all types other than those on buoys and minor light-floats. Major floating lights (light-vessels, major light-floats and LANBYs) have functions similar to those of major lights on land; points relating particularly to them are given in 474.

470.3 The IALA System

Replace first sentence by:

The IALA System rules will apply to minor lights but not to leading lights, sectored lights, landfall lights or major floating lights.

470.5 Position of lights

After "Position of lights - special cases. A light star shall not be used for:", replace the next line by:

- Major floating lights, see 474.

470.7 Names of lights

Replace last sentence by:

For names of major floating lights see 474.

472.1 Major lights.

Replace d. by:

d. All other details together (except that, where useful on relatively small scales a light star, major floating light symbol, or offshore platform symbol may be shown with flare but without description).

474 LIGHT-VESSELS AND LANBYS

Replace by:

474 MAJOR FLOATING LIGHTS

474.1 Major floating lights are generally classed as those with a nominal range in excess of 10 nautical miles. Special circumstances eg isolated location, may mean that a floating light of lower range is given this status. The structure on which the light is fixed will usually be one of the following:

- light-vessel, hull length approximately 21 metres, usually unmanned;
- major light-float, hull length approximately 17 metres, unmanned;
- LANBY (Large Automatic Navigational Buoy), circular float diameter approximately 12 metres, unmanned.

474.2 The symbol for a major floating light shall be



The colour of the structure does not indicate on which side it should be passed and should not be charted (this is consistent with the omission of colour from major shore light structures).

474.3 The name of the light shall be given on all large and medium-scale charts and shall be in the same form as that painted on the structure. It shall normally be placed above the light description.

474.4 The light description, which should be in sloping lettering, shall otherwise conform to the specifications for shore lights, including the charting of both height and range on larger-scale charts (see 470-473). The heights of lights are, of course, above sea level rather than above a fixed datum. Riding lights, which are of relatively low power, should not be charted.

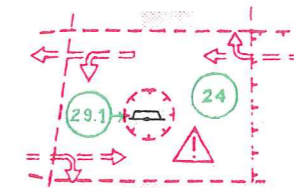
474.5 Watch (or station) buoys are sometimes moored near manned light-vessels to give crews an indication of dragging. They are normally unlit and may be moored up to a mile from the light-vessel. They should be shown on at least the largest scale charts because they are a collision hazard at night or in fog.

Delete 474.6 and 474.7

AMENDMENTS TO INT 1 "SYMBOLS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS USED ON CHARTS"

page 46 - IM Tracks, Routes

Amend symbol for navigational aid, in centre of Area to be Avoided IM29.1



page 55 - IP Lights

Amend IP6 as shown below:

6		Major floating light (light-vessel, major light-float, LANBY)	462.9 474 K6 L67
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Delete IP7 and IP8.

page 64 - IQ Buoys, Beacons

Amend IQ26 as shown below:

26		Super-buoy	462.9 L67
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Amend the sub-section title "Light Floats" to "Minor Light-floats"

Amend IQ31 as shown below:

31		Light-float not part of IALA System	462.8 L12
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





page 65 - IQ Buoys, Beacons

Amend IQ58 as shown below:

58		ODAS-buoy (Ocean-Data-Acquisition System), Data-Collecting buoy of super-buoy size	462.9 L67
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page 68 - IQ Buoys, Beacons

Amend IQ130 : IALA Maritime Buoyage System:

Where in force, the IALA System applies to all fixed and floating marks except landfall lights, leading lights and marks, sectored lights and major floating lights. The standard buoy shapes are cylindrical (can) , conical , spherical , pillar  and spar , but variations may occur, for example: minor light-floats . In the illustrations below, only the standard buoy.....


page 70 - Fog Signals

Amend IR1 as shown below:

1		Position of fog signal. Type of fog signal not stated.	451 451.2 452.8 N1
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page 71 - IS Radar, Radio, Electronic Position-Fixing Systems

Amend IS3.6 as shown below:

3.6		Floating marks with radar transponder beacons.	486.2 M12
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Back page - Contents

Amend pictorial blocks for IP and IQ as shown below:

IP Lights
IQ Buoys, Beacons

