

11th CSPCWG-1st NCWG MEETING
Rostock, Germany 27-30 April 2015

Paper for Consideration by NCWG

Notice to Mariners criteria – Magnetic information

Submitted by:	UK
Executive Summary:	Should any changes to magnetic data on charts justify NM updates?
Related Documents:	S-4 B-274 and B-620
Related Projects:	None

Introduction / Background.

When S-4 B-620.3 was drafted, it was mainly based on the criteria already in use by UKHO. This did not include any guidance for including changes to magnetic data on charts by chart-updating NM. UK has been reviewing its NM criteria and this issue was considered.

Analysis / Discussion.

UK concluded that it is not necessary to update normal changes to magnetic variation by NM. IN UK's case, this is updated at New Edition as a matter of course, including on those charts which have magnetic variation lines – see B-272. Between editions, the 'rate of change' gives sufficiently accurate guidance for those vessels still using magnetic compasses. However, it was decided that mariners should be warned about abnormal magnetic variation (see B-274). These include reported naturally occurring anomalies and anomalies associated with a newly laid power cable.

Conclusions.

An additional item considered to be 'navigationally significant' and therefore requiring chart-updating NM should be added to the list at B-620.

Recommendations.

Add new sub-paragraph 'p' to B-620.3:

- p. **Abnormal magnetic variation (anomalies)** where the value (or change) is 3° or more (see B-274).

Justification and Impacts.

This is a clarification to the list of criteria, to correct an omission that may have caused confusion. Its impact is likely to be very small, as such anomalies are comparatively rare.

Action required of NCWG.

The NCWG is invited to endorse the recommendation