

Paper for Consideration by CSPCWG
Definition of ‘Superbuoy’

Submitted by:	UK
Executive Summary:	There may be a need to reconsider the definition of ‘Superbuoy’
Related Documents:	S-4: B460.4b; B462.9. INT1 Q26
Related Projects:	None

Introduction / Background

Note: this paper was delayed due to timing of IALA meeting. It is therefore submitted as an information (INF paper).

The term ‘Superbuoy’ has long been used in the IHO to describe a buoy of large size (ie 5m in diameter or more). However, UKHO attention has been drawn to the fact that some lighthouse authorities have been using the term to describe buoys which have particularly sophisticated equipment, and are not necessarily large in terms of physical size. Also, UK’s major lighthouse authority (Trinity House) has informed UKHO that it has no buoys larger than 3.5m in diameter.

Analysis / Discussion

S-4 B-460.4 defines Superbuoys as follows (bold added):

b. **Superbuoys. Very large buoys, generally more than 5 m in diameter**, which should be distinguished on charts because their unusually large size renders them a potential hazard even to large vessels and/or their function or attachments render them unusually costly, or are such that their destruction could result in a disaster. The three principal types of superbuoy are:

- Offshore tanker loading/discharge buoys, often known as Single Point Moorings (SPM). Very large floating offshore oil terminals, incorporating oil storage and regularly manned, should not be classified as superbuoys - they usually resemble fixed platforms rather than buoys: see B-445.2.
- Very large Oceanographic Data Acquisition System (ODAS) buoys, usually moored in deep water, for the automatic collection of oceanographic and meteorological information. See B-462.9. Note: not all ODAS buoys are of superbuoy size.
- Large Automatic Navigation Buoys (LANBY) designed to take the place of a light vessel where construction of an offshore light station is not feasible. A LANBY generally has a principal dimension of **8m or more** in the water-plane, and the elevation of the light is generally at least 10m above the waterline, see B-474.

INT1 Q26 is allocated for ‘Superbuoy’. No definition is given here (for the chart user) but the cross reference to B460.4 implies that the symbol is intended to represent the feature as defined in S-4.

Superbuoy is not defined in S-32 or S-57.

Superbuoy is not defined in the IALA dictionary.

UK’s Trinity House advise they have no buoys greater than 3.5m in diameter.

Commissioners of Irish Lights have used the term in connection with the equipment on a buoy, rather than its size. However, they have now agreed to accept the S-4 definition.

IALA were asked to comment. This is their response:

The IALA dictionary does not provide a definition for the term superbuoy.

IALA does not endorse the use of the term superbuoy as it does not adequately describe the nature of the buoy. IALA is aware that this term is applied to buoys of large dimensions that are not principally used as aids to navigation, such as super mooring buoys and the largest Ocean Data Acquisition Structures (ODAS).

As a result of your query, the Committee has undertaken to review the definition of a Lanby, where there are elements relating to 'superbuoys' and this work should be completed at its next meeting, which is in April 2011.

IALA will be reviewing its Recommendation O-104 covering major floating aids to navigation in 2011/12 and this review will give consideration to Buoys of Primary Navigational Significance (BPNS) and 'superbuoys' including the need for new or changed definitions.

Conclusions

If retained, the existing S-4 definition of superbuoy may need to be adjusted after IALA have reviewed O-104 (in 2011/12).

After that time, a definition for superbuoy should, if required, be considered for S-32.

Recommendations

Await IALA's advice.

Justification and Impacts

To avoid potential confusion caused by applying different definitions or interpretations to the same term.

If retained, possible requirement to amend definition in S-4 and add to INT1, S-32, S-57 and S100 suite.

Action required of CSPCWG

The CSPCWG is invited to:

- endorse the recommendation above.
- note to ask IALA for further information in due course.