

8th CSPCWG Meeting
Turku, Finland, 29 November – 2 December 2011

Paper for Consideration by CSPCWG
Units and figures

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| Submitted by: | FR |
| Executive Summary: | Use of space between figures and symbol of units |
| Related Documents: | S-4 |
| Related Projects: | Presentation of the information on charts |

Introduction / Background.

France is translating S-4 in French.

The writing of the unit symbols in S-4 does not follow ISO standards.

Analysis / Discussion.

The standard ISO 80000 states “The symbol of the unit shall be placed after the numerical value in the expression for a quantity, leaving a space between the numerical value and the unit symbol”, e.g. 800 m , not 800m.

Two aspects seem to have to be solved:

- S-4 does not follow the standard ISO 80000 itself, writing generally unit symbol without space after numerical values;
- On charts, the standard ISO 80000 should be followed as the standards of IHO have vocation to follow the international standards when they are relevant.

7.1.4 Expressions for quantities

The symbol of the unit shall be placed after the numerical value in the expression for a quantity, **leaving a space between the numerical value and the unit symbol**. It should be noted that this rule also applies to the units per cent, % and per mil, ‰. It should also be noted that, in accordance with this rule, the symbol °C for the degree Celsius shall be preceded by a space when expressing a Celsius temperature.

The only exceptions to this rule are for the units degree, minute and second for plane angle, in which case there shall be no space between the numerical value and the unit symbol.

Conclusions.

IHO standards are not compliant with international standards.

Recommendations.

To Adopt the ISO 80000 for the writing of numerical values and unit symbols, with a space between them.

Justification and Impacts.

Modification of S-4 and nautical charts.

Action required of CSPCWG.

The CSPCWG is invited to:

Adopt the chapter 7.1.4 of ISO 80000-1 as recommended.