

9th CSPWG MEETING
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Paper for Consideration by CSPCWG
Use of abbreviations PA, PD

Submitted by:	France (SHOM)
Executive Summary:	Guidelines for the use of abbreviations PA, PD
Related Documents:	S-4, B-424
Related Projects:	/

Introduction / Background

S-4, B424.1 and B424.2 give qualitative explanation for the use of the abbreviations PA and PD but do not give quantitative criteria. France proposes to add some quantitative information to help cartographers to decide when using PA and PD.

Analysis / Discussion

The text from S-4 about the use of PA and PD is the following:

B-424.1 PA, meaning **Position approximate**, must be used to indicate that the position of a shoal, wreck, etc, either has not been accurately determined or does not remain fixed.

PA B7

B-424.2 PD, meaning **Position doubtful**, must be used to indicate a wreck, shoal, etc, has been reported in various positions and not confirmed in any of them.

PD B8

The expressions “either has not been accurately determined or does not remain fixed” and “has been reported in various positions” are very general and have not the same signification depending of the scale of the chart. It is why France proposes to add quantitative criteria.

In this way, France proposes for the use of:

- PA: when uncertainty on the chart is between 2 and 10 mm for objects on shore, and between 4 and 10 mm for objects off-shore (because the position of objects off-shore is usually less accurate);
- PD: when the uncertainty is over 10 mm on the chart or when the uncertainty is unknown

These rules could help the cartographers to decide more objectively when using PA and PD for each chart. They increase standardisation between the production nations.

This can be done automatically where the precision is registered in database. SHOM has done like this since two decades at least.

Conclusions

This proposal could constitute a good complement to the current explanation in the S-4 and provide some guidelines easier to follow by the cartographers.

Recommendations

France recommends the CSPCWG to adopt these additional guidelines.

Justification and Impacts

France thinks that the content of S-4 on this topic can be improved to increase standardisation of nautical charts.

This proposal could be approved by CSPCWG without any further investigation or later by a CL if any MS applies different rules.

Action required of CSPCWG

The CSPCWG is invited to:

- c. note this proposal and examine the possibility of improving S-4 in a more “specified” way as it is written above.