

**Joint 18<sup>th</sup> TSMAD & 1<sup>st</sup> DIPWG Meeting  
Ottawa, Canada, 4-8 May 2009**

**AIS TO BE USED FOR AIDS TO NAVIGATION**

**Comment made by**

**Andrew Heath-Coleman, Operations Standards and Secretary Chart  
Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG)**

SN Circ243 contains AIS symbology for real-time display on an ECDIS, Radar or AIS display. They are not \*paper chart\* symbols. The paper chart symbol for an AIS transmitter is the usual magenta 'radio circle' with legend AIS (upright or italic according to what aid to navigation it is attached to). A 'virtual' AIS would have no associated AtoN symbol (because there isn't one), so would be centred on a magenta version of the small dot & circle. M-4 B-489 (to be amended shortly) refers.

Japan are proposing a group of symbols which appear to be almost (but not quite) the same as paper chart symbols, to be added to Circ243. This would destroy the deliberate distinction between chart symbols (which are not real-time and appear in the \*designated\* position of an AtoN) compared with the \*real-time\* display (which is currently a blue diamond).

A further issue with the Japanese submission is that it suggests symbols for a 'virtual' AIS which is centred on actual AtoN symbols. The whole point of a 'virtual' AIS is that no physical AtoN exists. They are possibly confusing 'virtual' AIS with 'synthetic' AIS, which is where a physical AtoN exists, but the AIS signal which appears to be from the AtoN is actually transmitted from a remote station. Note that there are two sorts of 'synthetic' AIS: 'Monitored synthetic' (which appears to transmit from the buoy's actual location because there is a communication link between the buoy and the base station) and 'Predicted synthetic' (which appears to transmit from a buoy's predicted rather than actual location, because there is no communication link between the buoy and the base station).

There are other issues with the Japanese proposals, but this is enough to highlight the need to staff this issue in some way, presumably through MCA. Is this something that you will be able to take forward? I do not know what time there is available before MSC meet.

Paragraph 17 of the Japanese submission says: 'Four sessions of the NAV Sub-Committee starting at its fifty-sixth session (NAV 56) are necessary, principally to provide time to liaise with the relevant organizations, i.e. IALA, IEC, IHO, ISO, ITU, etc., and to draft the amendment to SN/Circ.243'. So, IHO are going to be invited to comment, presumably through DIPWG.

On Michel's final question below, UKHO kept Duncan Glass at Trinity House (who is on the IALA Aids to Navigation Committee) fully informed of UKHO's and IHO proposals. Duncan undertook for that Committee to draft a submission to the IHO (email dated 5/04/2005). I have no idea whether any direct correspondence between IHB and IALA on this subject resulted. I also informed Duncan of the final IHO specification for AIS symbology on paper charts by email on 18/01/2007. So, by a slightly 'back door route' (UKHO to Trinity House) IALA were fully informed, but a more formal and direct IHB to IALA link might have been better.

---