

Naming Convention for Chart Datum – Submitted by the IHB

At the VIIth IHOTC meeting in Wollongong, Australia the Chairman and Steve Shipman were tasked to prepare a draft Technical Resolution (TR) on a naming convention for Chart Datum.

A draft TR and covering IHB Circular Letter is attached for approval by IHOTC8.



IHB Files No. S3/1401/WG

CIRCULAR LETTER Xx/2007
XxNovember 2007

Naming Convention for Chart Datum (CD)

Dear Hydrographer,

IHO TR A2.5 resolves that LAT be used as Chart Datum (CD) and note 1 to paragraph 2b of TR A2.5 provides guidance on the calculation of LAT. Until now the vertical datum used on a chart has been referred to as CD, with no indication of the date on which it was established.

The level of CD in any given area may be revised from time to time due to changes in the characteristics of the tide caused by tectonic movements, sea level changes etc. and the need to ensure that charts enable ships to make the maximum safe use of the area.

The increasing requirement to handle multiple digital data sets, whether to combine them for example in coastal hydrography and topography, or to compare data from different epochs to assess rates of change, requires that the datum levels used are clearly and unambiguously defined.

Currently there is no guidance on how changes in the level of CD should be recorded. It has long been the practice with horizontal datums to include the epoch or year of their determination in their name for example Clarke (1866), Clarke (1880), WGS72 and WGS84. The Tidal Committee proposes that a similar convention be adopted for CD e.g. CD (2006) or LAT UK (2000). The decision regarding when a change in CD for a given area is necessary and the name given to that specific definition of CD remains a matter for each MS.

The Tidal Committee therefore proposes the inclusion of a new IHO TR A2.16 as set out in Annex A. MS are requested to complete **the voting form at Annex B and return it to the IHB by 31 January 2008.**

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Captain Robert WARD
Director

A2.16 Naming Convention for the Vertical Datum of Charts

1. It is resolved that the vertical datum used on navigational charts, Chart Datum (CD), be defined without ambiguity in order to enable subsequent bathymetric data comparisons to be conducted in an efficient and reliable manner and for the accurate combination of datasets using different vertical datums.
2. It is recommended that a designated epoch for example CD (2006) or LAT-UK (2000) be used. The decision as to when a change in CD for a given area is necessary and the name given to that specific definition of CD remains a matter for each Member State based on their national requirements.

DRAFT

Adoption of new TR A 2.16

Voting FORM

(to be returned to the IHB by 31 January 2008
E-mail: info@ihb.mc - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

Member State:

Do you agree to the inclusion of TR A 2.16 **YES** **NO**

Comments (if any):

Name / Signature Date:

