



IHO Transfer Standards Maintenance and Applications Development Working Group



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TSMAD19 26-30 October 2009 Sydney, AUSTRALIA

Title: Accommodation and meeting information, IHO/TSMAD in Sydney, Australia, 26-30 Oct 2009.

Target date: 26-30 October 2009.

Status: Meeting information and registration.

Required action: For information – Please register to confirm attendance and accommodation.

Distribution: TSMAD members
IHO website (TSMAD section)

TSMAD19 Meeting co-ordinator

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IHO/TSMAD 19th MEETING – SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA 26-30 OCTOBER 2009.

TRAVEL AND MEETING INFORMATION

The Australian Hydrographic Office is pleased to welcome TSMAD members and accompanying persons to Sydney, Australia for TSMAD19.

MEETING VENUE

The meeting will be held at:

Four Points by Sheraton, Darling Harbour, Sydney.

161 Sussex Street,
Sydney, NSW
AUSTRALIA 2000.
TP: +61 2 9290 4000
FX: +61 2 9290 4040
Email:

www.FourPoints.com/Sydney

A map of Darling Harbour showing the location of the venue is at Annex A.



MEETING SESSIONS

Each day will commence at **0830**. Morning tea will commence at **1000 until 1020**, lunch will be between **1230** and **1330**, and afternoon tea will commence at **1500 until 1520**. Each day should conclude by **1700**.

REGISTRATION

All members and/or observers intending to attend the meeting must notify Jeff WOOTTON, Barry GREENSLADE and Tony PHARAOH as soon as possible to assist in finalising numbers and details for the venue (this may be best done by notifying us at the same time that you book your accommodation). **Please email your intention to attend the meeting before 18 September 2009 to:**

Jeff.Wootton@defence.gov.au
pad@ihb.mc

LUNCH

Lunch will be provided each day during the meeting at the Corn Exchange Restaurant in the Hotel. For those who wish to make other arrangements for lunch, the Hotel is located on the eastern side of Darling Harbour and the western side of the Sydney CBD. Darling Harbour is one of the most popular tourist and shopping areas in Sydney. As such, there are many restaurants, cafes and pubs within easy walking distance of the Hotel.

ACCOMMODATION

A block booking of 20 rooms has been arranged at the **Four Points Sheraton, Darling Harbour, Sydney**, at the group rate of **AUD\$255:00** per room per night (single occupancy) or **AUD\$275:00** per room per night (double occupancy). These rates include buffet breakfast and the rooms are available at the above rates from Saturday 24th October to Saturday 01st November. For those delegates staying at the Hotel, a promotional deal of "stay 2 nights, get the third night free" will also apply, therefore if you are staying for 5 nights, you will only pay for 4 nights; for 6 nights, you only pay for 5 nights, etc. Delegates please note that if you wish to hire a car during your visit, there is a AUD\$36:00 per 24 hours parking charge at the Hotel. The Hotel is on the eastern side of Darling Harbour, and is adjacent to the Sydney CBD. See location of Hotel on map at Annex A. Check In time at the hotel is 1500.

These rooms have been booked at a corporate rate which can only be guaranteed for a limited amount of time. Delegates are therefore advised to confirm their booking, preferably by faxing the supplied reservation form, before **18 September 2009** to the fax number on the form. Rooms cannot be guaranteed after this date and rates will only be available at the going commercial rate at the time of booking after this date. If there are any questions or problems please contact Jeff.

Delegates who may wish to organise alternative accommodation may check options and availability by Googling "Darling Harbour Sydney Hotels", or let Jeff know of any special requirements. Please note that October/November are extremely busy months in Sydney for meetings and conferences so accommodation in Sydney at this time is at a premium.

SOCIAL DINNER

A social evening will be organised for Wednesday 28 October. Dinner will be at the delegates own expense, and further information about the night will be made available on day 1 of the meeting.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

Please check the latest information from the Australian Department of Immigration's website, www.immi.gov.au. Vaccinations are not required unless you have come from, or have visited, a yellow fever infected country or zone within 6 days prior to arrival. You do not need any other health certificate to enter Australia.

QUARANTINE

Australia is an island continent, well protected from most animal and agricultural pests and diseases. To help maintain this, strict quarantine regulations apply, and the casual importation of food, seeds, animals, plants and animal or plant products is prohibited.

Quarantine regulations are strictly enforced, and penalties are very high. When you arrive in Australia, if you have any doubts about an item in your possession, **declare it**, and one of our helpful Customs Officers will assess it. More information is available from www.daff.gov.au/aqis.

CUSTOMS

In common with most other countries, Australia allows in-bound passengers to import modest amounts of duty free alcohol, tobacco and perfume. High value gifts imported into Australia may be subject to a tax. More information is available at www.customs.gov.au/site/page.cfm.

Note that all Australian international inbound and outbound flights are subject to **security screening restrictions for liquids, aerosols and gels (LAG's)**. **Passengers are not able to carry onboard (in carry-on luggage) more than one litre in total of LAG's. LAG's must be in containers no larger than 100ml each and fit comfortably within a one litre transparent re-sealable plastic bag.** If you purchase duty free alcohol or perfume in containers/bottles of more than 100ml at your place of origin, **it will be confiscated by Customs Officials before you board your flight** unless it is packed in your checked luggage. For more information go to: www.customs.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/GuideForTravellers.pdf.

Note that you will pass a duty free outlet when you disembark the plane in Sydney before going through customs where you can buy products that you wish to consume in Australia. There are also duty free outlets in Sydney and at the airport to purchase duty free products to take back home if you wish, but please be mindful of the restrictions on LAG's.

CURRENCY AND CREDIT CARDS

The unit of currency in Australia is the Australian Dollar (AUD\$). Notes come in AUD\$100, AUD\$50, AUD\$20, AUD\$10 and AU\$5 denominations. Coins come in 5, 10, 20, 50 (cents), AUD\$1 and AUD\$2 denominations.

Major credit cards such as American Express, Visa, MasterCard and Diners Club are widely accepted. ATMs (Cashpoints) are very commonplace throughout Australia, and generally accept a wide range of cards, including Cirrus/Maestro cards. Please take care in Sydney early in the morning and at night when using ATM machines.

Currency converters such as Travelex can be found at the airport and in the city.

TAX REFUNDS

Australia has a Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 10%, which by law is always included in the displayed or marked price. For tourists buying goods in excess of AUD\$300 as part of a single purchase, a refund of the tax is available when the goods are exported. This can be obtained through the Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS) desk at your airport of departure. Please

note, however, that most Australian shops serving tourists do provide a tax-free purchasing option on presentation of a valid passport and airline ticket. TRS does not apply in these cases.

AIRPORT TRANSPORT

Several shuttle bus services operate between Sydney Airport and Sydney hotels. The largest (and most cost effective) company that I could find was **KST Sydney Airporter**. The prices are around AUD\$13:00 one way or AUD\$22:00 return per person. It is recommended that the service be pre-booked and you will need to provide flight and arrival time details. For bookings go to www.kst.com.au/airport.php. If there are any problems with bookings please contact Jeff.

For those that would rather take a taxi from the airport, there are taxi ranks directly outside both the International and Domestic terminals at Sydney Airport. The taxi fare into the city is approximately AUD\$50:00 and all passengers going to/from the airport must also pay a AUD\$2:50 per person airport toll.

For train buffs, there is an airport train which goes directly to the city. Trains leave approximately every 10 minutes and the journey to the city takes about 15 minutes. The nearest station to the Four Points Sheraton Hotel is **Town Hall**, which is about 5-6 blocks away. You can catch a taxi or walk from the station to the Hotel. Trains leave from both the International and Domestic terminals at Sydney Airport and tickets are about AUD\$15:00 one way or AUD\$22:00 return. To find the station at the airport, which is below the terminals, follow the railway signs.

Public bus services run from the airport, but it is not recommended as it is about a 1km walk to the bus stop at the airport, a change of buses is required half-way to the city and there are no public bus stops for the relevant routes close to the hotel.

Self drive rental cars are available at Sydney Airport and in the city (Avis, Budget, Eurocar, Hertz etc.) starting at about AUD\$50:00 per day. Advance booking is recommended if you intend to hire a car. Please note that parking in the city is at a premium, and it will cost AUD\$36:00 per day to park a car at the Hotel.

CLIMATE

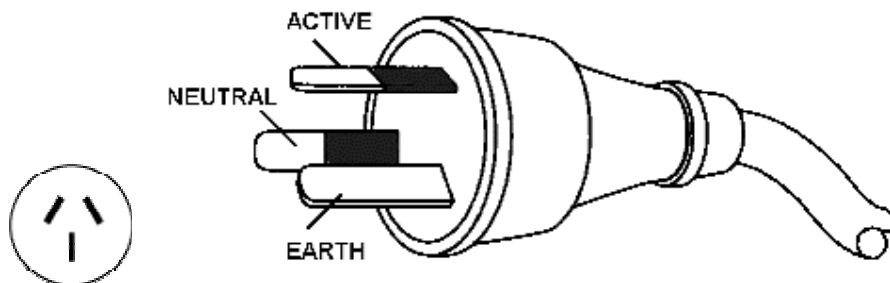
October in Australia is mid-spring and the weather is generally very nice at this time of year. The average temperature ranges from about 14°C minimum to about 24°C maximum. Being the middle of spring, the weather may vary so come prepared for warmer temperatures and possibly rainy conditions. Average rainfall in Sydney in November is about 85mm over an average of 8 days. Additional information on Australian climate can be found at www.bom.gov.au.

INSURANCE

The organisers and hosts cannot accept any responsibility for the above information, nor for any accidents, losses and/or damages that may occur. Delegates are advised to obtain travel, medical, personal accident and luggage insurance in their home countries prior to departure.

TRAVEL TIPS

Electrical voltage is 240V AC, 50Hz. Power outlet boards will be available for use in the meeting room. You will need an adaptor to fit your plug into an Australian 3 pin socket.



Tipping is not obligatory. It is at your own discretion and only for very good service. As a guide, add 7-10% to a restaurant bill.

Smoking is not permitted within public buildings, including clubs and pubs, and is also not permitted on any public transport, including domestic air flights.

TOURIST INFORMATION AND SIGHTSEEING TOURS

Local sightseeing and tourist information will be available at the Hotel for Sydney and the surrounding area. All arrangements should be made and paid for individually. If anyone has any particular interest, please contact Jeff directly. There is a very good tourist information centre in The Rocks, which is about a 15 minute walk from the Hotel. For further information on tourist activities go to www.sydney.com.au. Anyone who wants to know more about Sydney when you arrive at the airport, you can grab a booklet from the terminal corridor before you reach customs.

DEPARTING AUSTRALIA

All persons 12 years and older departing Australia must pay various Departure Taxes. This should be included in the price of your air fare, but it is advised that you check.

We look forward to welcoming you to Australia

ANNEX A:

