



CHART STANDARDIZATION & PAPER CHART WORKING GROUP (CSPCWG)

[A Working Group of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC)]

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CSPCWG Letter: 08/2014

UKHO ref: HA317/010/031-11
AHS ref: fAA141923

Date 2 October 2014

Dear Colleagues:

Subject 1: Election of Vice-Chairman of CSPCWG, follow-up to Letter 04/2014

No members of CSPCWG indicated willingness and availability to take on the role of Vice Chairman of CSPCWG, following the unavailability of Chris Thorne. Therefore, in accordance with statement in Letter 04/2014, Mr Nick Webb of the UK Hydrographic Office is now appointed Vice Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the WG, to welcome Nick to the CSPCWG and congratulate him on his appointment.

Subject 2: CSPCWG10 Action 7 – Revision of S-4 B-160, follow-up to Letter 05/2014

Thank you to the 21 WG members who responded to CSPCWG Letter 05/2014. All accepted the proposed revised B-160, except Australia. Australia's response (submitted by me) was:

Australia considers that the final 2 paragraphs of the proposed revision of B-160 describe internal IHO (CSPCWG and HSSC) processes that are (or should be) reflected in the CSPCWG Procedures and Resolution 2/2007. As internal procedures, there is no requirement to include these in S-4 (Noting that a references to Resolutions 11/2002 and 2/2007 are included in the first paragraph). Australia considers it is sufficient to provide guidance for IHO Member States (and CSPCWG members) on how to propose amendments to S-4, and therefore suggests that the final 2 paragraphs of the revised B-160 be removed, and the first paragraph only retained as amended.

Note also that rigorous document maintenance specifications have not been included in other IHO Standards for which CSPCWG is responsible (e.g. S-11 Part A).

Germany's response supported Australia and suggested:

It would be good to find a shorter version of the last two paragraphs (see considerations of Australia).

The Secretary agrees with Australia's comment. However, Resolution 2/2007 was originally framed to apply mainly to changes to S-57 that may impact significantly on various stakeholders, such as ECDIS manufacturers. Up until now it has not been applied to S-4. Consequently, the Secretary is not familiar with how it applies in practice and drafted the final two paragraphs referred to above on a possibly confused interpretation of Resolution 2/2007, especially in Clause 5.1 under 'Revision' (which is the most common application to S-4), as highlighted below:

Revisions are defined as substantive semantic changes to a standard. Typically, *revisions* change existing specifications to correct factual errors; introduce necessary changes that have become evident as a result of practical experience or changing circumstances; or add new specifications within an existing section. *Revisions* could have an impact on either existing users or future users of a revised standard. It follows that a full consultative process that provides an opportunity for input from as many stakeholders as possible is required. Proposed changes to a standard should be evaluated and tested wherever practicable. The approval of Member States is required before any *revisions* to a standard can enter into force. All cumulative *clarifications* must be included with the release of approved corrections revisions.

The Secretary assumed that a 'full consultative process' implied that HSSC should approve any 'work item' before CSPCWG started any consultation within the group and that HSSC should also approve the outcome resulting in revision of S-4 before consulting Member States (mainly interpreted from the two 'Committee approval' flags in the 'life cycle' diagram at clause 3.2). These two stages were the basis for the two draft paragraphs, and had potential to add many months to the process. However, I consider that the process of considering possible new or updated specifications within S-4, as we have traditionally done via meetings and subsequent correspondence, was and continues to be 'business as usual' and not subject to Resolution 2/2007. To put it another way, it falls to the left of the blue dashed line in the life cycle diagram. When the WG considers that there have been enough changes accumulated (or that one change is significant enough) to warrant a new version of S-4, the WG proposes to the HSSC that the production of a new version of the Standard be added to the Work Program. This is when I consider the "Propose" phase of the life cycle diagram at clause 3.2 of the Resolution happens and is the practice I have experienced in TSMAD. I therefore propose that the last paragraphs on the proposal should be amended and incorporated into our 'CSPCWG Procedures' document. In fact, the 'Publications' section of our procedures will need considerable revision following the completion of the current revision of S-4. I will ask the Secretary to present a draft revision for our consideration at the next CSPCWG meeting.

The final draft of the revised B-160 is included at Annex A to this Letter for your information. While you are, of course, welcome to comment on this final draft, there is no need to respond to this Letter if you are content with the analysis above and the draft in the Annex. If you do have further comments, please respond by **30 October 2014**.

Yours sincerely,



Jeff Wootton,
Chairman.

Final draft of S-4 B-160 (with changes as included in Letter 05/2014 incorporated)

B-160 UPDATING SYSTEM FOR THE SPECIFICATIONS

The Chart Specifications of the IHO must be maintained to reflect the developing requirements of nautical charting, including changing navigational procedures and developments in cartographic techniques. The IHO Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) is responsible for the updating of the Specifications in accordance with IHO Resolutions 11/2002 and 2/2007 as amended. A Member State finding it necessary to:

- adopt a new specification,
- use a new symbol or abbreviation for a feature for which there is no existing INT symbol or abbreviation, or
- amend an existing specification

should inform the IHB at the earliest opportunity. All such proposals for changes should be referred by the IHB to the Chairman of the CSPCWG. Members of the CSPCWG, in their capacity as a standing group of experts, should also identify new points requiring standardization action and refer them as soon as possible to the Chairman of CSPCWG.