

Paper for Consideration by NCWG
Clarification to Notice to Mariners responsibilities of Printer Nations A-403.8

Submitted by:	Australian Hydrographic Office
Executive Summary:	Printer Nations Notice responsibilities INT Charts – The roles and expectations of the stakeholders.
Related Documents:	
Related Projects:	

Introduction / Background

- A Printer nation can issue a NM to a Producer nation's INT chart that the Producer nation does not deem necessary, leading to the INT charts of the Producer and Printer nations being inconsistent.
- 'Source nations' of NE/NC that may impact INT Charts should proactively provide timely notifications, i.e. provide 'Push' notifications to 'Producer nations' of that region.

Analysis / Discussion

A-403.8 Normally a printer nation will not issue an NM affecting fundamental hydrographic detail on an international chart without prior consultation with the producer nation. However, exceptionally, a printer has the right to initiate and issue an NM for its version of an international chart if immediate promulgation of critical information is considered advisable. In such cases, the printer nation should ensure that copies (preferably advance copies) are sent to the producer nation, to the HO with a national responsibility for the waters concerned (if different from the producer nation) and to the other printer nations. The HO with a national responsibility for the waters concerned should also be supplied with a copy of the report or data on which the NM is based. All other members of the IHO should similarly pass such data to the producer nation for action, see A-402.1.

- Does S4 provide enough guidance for Producer and Printer nations to understand their obligations with respect to NM for INT charts?
- Does S4 provide enough guidance for where Producer nations, Printer nations, or the nation responsible for the waters concerned do not agree? Where does final responsibility lay?
- What is the process to be followed if a Producer nation does not subsequently agree with actions taken by a Printer nation? i.e. should the NM be withdrawn/cancelled?

Recommendations

- Add guidance in S4 A-403.8 to clarify responsibility around disagreements of criticality and process when these instances happen.
- Reinforce the INT Chart principles regarding a Producer nation's ownership of the data content. A Printer nation does not become the owner of the product and therefore, only by exception, has the right to amend the content.

Justification and Impacts

- B-104 Consistency between Chart Products
- Mariners confusion and loss of confidence in the products

Action required of NCWG

- The NCWG is invited to discuss this paper and consider recommendations proposed.
- Assign actions as deemed appropriate.