B-130 UNITS

The standard units for **depths** and **heights** must be metres (m) and decimetres (dm).

The standard units for **positional accuracy** must be metres (m).

The standard units for **distance** 'on the ground' must be nautical miles (M) and cables, or metres (m).

The standard units for **dimensions of charts** must be millimetres (mm).

The standard units for **time** must be hours (h), minutes (min or m) and seconds (sec or s), referred to Universal Time Co-ordinated (UTC).

The standard units for **speed** must be knots (kn).

The standard units for **geographical positions** should be degrees (°) minutes (') and decimals of a minute. Degrees (°), minutes (') and seconds (") may be used if appropriate.

The standard units for **bearings**, such as for a recommended track or magnetic variation, should be degrees (°) and decimals of a degree. Degrees (°) and minutes (') may be used if appropriate.

B-131 GEOGRAPHICAL POSITIONS

Geographical positions quoted on charts and in related publications should be:

- expressed in degrees, minutes and decimals of a minute
- with a single space between the coordinates and no other spaces
- without punctuation
- with a decimal separator according to national practice (comma, decimal point or full stop – comma is the preferred ISO sign)
- with leading zeros for single number minutes, but not for degrees
- with the minute tick following the fractional part

for example: 51°42,03'N 5°07,14'E
51°42·03'N 5°07·14'E
51°42.03'N 5°07.14'E

Exception:

- Degrees, minutes and seconds may be used if the graduation of the chart concerned is in that format, to avoid confusion.

B-131.1 The four cardinal points must be denoted by the following abbreviations whenever their names are not inserted in full:

North = N South = S

East = E West = W

B-132 BEARINGS: CONVENTIONS

Bearings must be given in degrees from 0° (North) to 360° in a clockwise direction. Bearings should be quoted and charted, with the exception of 0°, as three figures (digits), for example: 230°, 095°, 005°. This is in accordance with usual navigational practice. Bearings may be quoted and charted to tenths of a degree, for example 096,4°. All bearings indicated on charts must be true bearings.