

**B-380 OVERHEAD OBSTRUCTIONS AND CLEARANCES: BRIDGES, CABLES, PIPES**

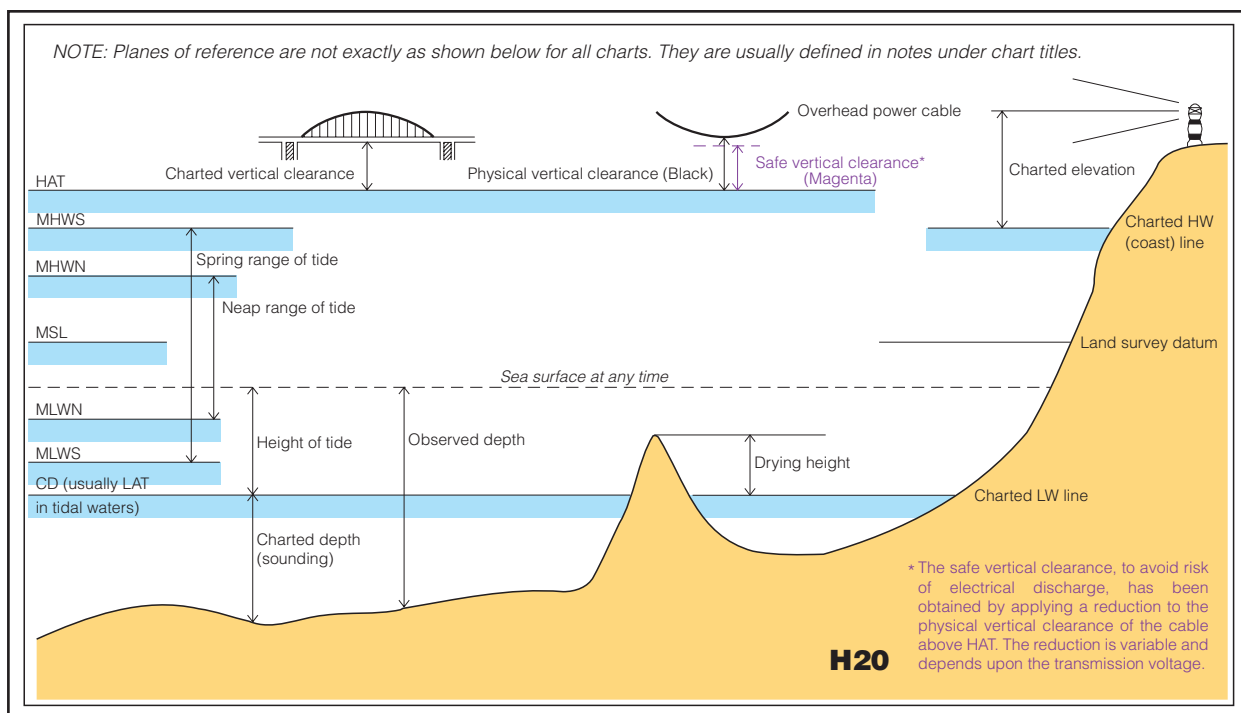
On charts which include vertical clearances under overhead obstructions, a statement of the height datum from which the vertical clearance is measured must always be given in the title block, see B-241.6

**B-380.1 Vertical clearance:** IHO Resolution 3/1919 (as amended 2017), contains the following guidance:

**Highest Astronomical Tide (HAT)**, or a datum as closely equivalent to this level as is practical and acceptable to Hydrographic Offices, should be adopted as the datum for vertical clearances. Alternatively, another, similar datum may be used if high water levels in a specific area frequently deviate from HAT, or a different datum has been established by national policy (paragraph 7).

However, in **geographical areas where the tidal range is negligible** (for example less than 0,30m) and in non-tidal areas depths, **and all other navigational information**, should be referred to Mean Sea Level (MSL) or other level as closely equivalent to this as is practical and acceptable to Hydrographic Offices (paragraph 10).

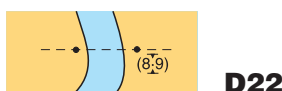
Vertical clearances must be rounded **down** to the nearest whole metre (unless under 10m, when metres and decimetres may be quoted, if the measurements are considered to be sufficiently accurate). The principle aim is to chart the predicted minimum safe clearance.



**B-380.2 The figure** denoting the vertical clearance must be charted either alongside the obstruction:



or on the adjacent land:



As far as possible, the charted physical clearance above the stated height datum should be the minimum allowing for meteorological changes such as heat expansion, ice weight and any other possible physical variations. For safe vertical clearance to avoid risk of electrical discharge under power cables, see B-382.1