

IHO File No S3/4405

CIRCULAR LETTER 02/2021
11 January 2021

**CALL FOR APPROVAL OF EDITION 4.9.0 OF IHO PUBLICATION S-4
- CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO**

References:

- A. IHO CL 49/2018 dated 4 October - *Adoption of Edition 4.8.0 of the IHO Publication S-4 - Chart Specifications of the IHO*;
- B. Decision HSSC12/39 - *Maintenance of S-4 and INT-1*;
- C. Decision HSSC12/42 - *Endorsement by HSSC of the revision of S-4*.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Following the publication of Edition 4.8.0 of the IHO Publication S-4 - *Regulations of the IHO for International (INT) Charts and Chart Specifications of the IHO* (see Reference A), the Nautical Cartography Working Group (NCWG) has continued to maintain this publication, as directed by its programme of work and in accordance with section B-160 of the document.
2. At its 12th meeting in October 2020, the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) confirmed that the maintenance of S-4 remains an ongoing important activity of the NCWG and endorsed the proposed changes to Edition 4.8.0 of S-4 as proposed by the NCWG (See References B and C).
3. HSSC12 also noted that, from November 2020, the custodian of the English version of IHO Publication INT-1 - *Symbols and Abbreviations used on Paper Charts* and responsibility of maintenance thereof, has been taken over by the United Kingdom from Germany. The UKHO version of INT-1, which is called NP 5011, Edition 8¹ has been published and is available, for Member States only, on the IHO website > Publications > Standards and Specifications. On behalf of the Member States, the IHO Secretariat thanks BSH, Germany and the UKHO, United Kingdom, for the smooth transition in support of the continuous maintenance of this important publication (Reference B).
4. The draft Edition 4.9.0 (*English version only*) is now available to IHO Member States, for their consideration and approval on the IHO website at: <https://iho.int/en/draft-publications>.
5. The document is supplemented by an explanatory note listing the changes and clarifications included in the proposed revision.

¹ It should be noted that the former national English version of INT-1 produced by BSH, Germany was Edition 9.

6. Member States are requested to take into account the endorsement of the HSSC and to consider the adoption of Edition 4.9.0 of S-4 by providing their reply at their earliest convenience and **no later than 1 March 2021** by email (cl-ic@iho.int) using the Voting Form provided in Annex A or, but preferably, using the IHO Online Form System available at the following link:

https://iho.formstack.com/forms/web_form_cl_02_2021.

7. The corresponding versions in French (maintained by the Secretariat) and Spanish (maintained by the Hydrographic Office of Spain) are under preparation and will be published after the adoption of Edition 4.9.0 of S-4 by the Member States.

On behalf of the Secretary-General
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abri KAMPFER', written in a cursive style.

Abri KAMPFER
Director

Annex A: Voting Form

S-4 - CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO
Approval of Edition 4.9.0

Voting Form

*(to be returned to the IHO Secretariat **by 1 March 2021**)*

E-mail: cl-lc@iho.int - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

Note: The boxes will expand as you type your answers.

Member State:

Contact:

E-mail:

Do you approve the adoption of Edition 4.9.0 of S-4 *(tick the appropriate box)?*

YES

NO

If you answer 'NO', please explain your reasons in the comment section below.

Comments:

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Signature:

Date:
