

IHO File No S3/4405

**CIRCULAR LETTER 11/2021
17 March 2021**

**ADOPTION OF EDITION 4.9.0 OF IHO PUBLICATION S-4
- CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO**

Reference:

- A. IHO CL 02/2021 dated 11 January – *Call for Approval of Edition 4.9.0 of the IHO Publication S-4 - Chart Specifications of the IHO;*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Reference A proposed the adoption of Edition 4.9.0 of IHO Publication S-4 - *Regulations of the IHO for International (INT) Charts and Chart Specifications of the IHO* – as recommended by the IHO Nautical Cartography Working Group (NCWG) and endorsed by the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee.
2. The Secretariat of the IHO thanks the 48 Member States that replied to Reference A: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.
3. Forty-six Member States supported the adoption of Edition 4.9.0 of S-4 and seven Member States offered comments in addition to their vote. These comments and the outcome of their review by the Chair of the NCWG and the IHO Secretariat are provided in Annex A to this Circular Letter.
4. When Reference A was issued, there were 93 Member States of the IHO with four States suspended. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the IHO as amended, the minimum number of affirmative votes required was 30. As a result, and taking into account the editorial corrections reported in Annex A, Edition 4.9.0 of S-4 has been adopted.

5. The English version of Edition 4.9.0 will be posted on the IHO website at: www.iho.int > Standards & Publications > S-4 as soon as the final text, prepared in liaison with the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, is available. The corresponding versions in French (maintained by the Secretariat) and Spanish (maintained by the Hydrographic Office of Spain) will be published in due course.

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: Member States' responses to IHO CL 02/2021 and comments from the Chair of the NCWG and IHO Secretariat.
Copy: Chair NCWG

**MEMBER STATES' RESPONSES TO IHO CL 02/2021
AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHY WORKING
GROUP (NCWG) AND THE IHO SECRETARIAT**

**ADOPTION OF EDITION 4.9.0 OF IHO PUBLICATION S-4 – CHART SPECIFICATIONS
OF THE IHO**

AUSTRALIA (Vote = YES)

- The cover page of the standard should be updated to the new IHO template version.
- Considering that the publication date will be in 2021, the Copyright notice (p. 2 of 452) should reflect this (it currently says 2020).
- 'Record of updates' tables (one per each document's sections) - Populate 'IHO Circular letters' columns for versions 4.8.0 and 4.9.0.
- 'Record of updates' table for Section B-400 - Amend 'Specification number' entry from B-443 to B-443.8.

Comments by NCWG Chair/IHO Secretariat:

The NCWG Chair/IHO Secretariat thank Australia for their comments.

It is planned that Edition 4.9.0 of S-4 will be published using the new IHO template for Standards and Publications (cover page, copyright notice, etc.) when the other amendments have been incorporated by the UKHO (custodian of the English version of S-4) and the final version is provided to the Secretariat.

In the "Record of updates", noting that there are amendments in the introduction paragraph of B-443 as well, B-443 seems to be the appropriate entry.

COLOMBIA (Vote = YES)

Special recognition for updates made.

Comments by NCWG Chair/IHO Secretariat:

The NCWG Chair/IHO Secretariat thank Colombia for their comments.

INDONESIA (Vote = YES)

Pushidrosal Indonesia would agree to the Draft S-4 Edition 4.9.0 and would like to refer to the standard, especially related to the omission and addition of words/paragraphs/Symbols to make a perfect standard document. We also agree with the addition para 422.7 (A wreck for which a survey has shown a reduced depth of water over it, representing an incremental hazard...etc.), which guide us as chart producer with a better understanding, and will make better pictorial representatives. There is also clarification on submarine cable, either buried or unburied, which is frequently found in Indonesian waters and has been represented in Indonesian nautical charts.

Comments by NCWG Chair/IHO Secretariat:

The NCWG Chair/IHO Secretariat thank Indonesia for their comments.

MAURITIUS (Vote = YES)

The approved endorsed voting form for the above-mentioned publication is attached with this mail. However following may be considered:

(a) While populating the IHO Publication C-55 'Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide', confusion was prevalent because of the difference in the nomenclature of areas of coverage of Chart given in S-4 and S-11 did not match with the division of coverage as per C-55. This makes it challenging to allocate the charts to the respective coverage.

(b) It is recommended that the nomenclature of chart coverage of C-55 may be aligned to the newly published S-44 to make it easier for member nations to furnish the report.

Comments by NCWG Chair/IHO Secretariat:

The NCWG Chair/IHO Secretariat thank Mauritius for their comments.

A submission paper by Mauritius to the next NCWG meeting would help to better understand and support the concerns raised about the possible mismatch on the definitions of chart coverage between S-44, S-4, S-11 and C-55. Meanwhile, it may be useful to indicate that a number of actions are already in progress across these different domains/standards and publications. For instance:

- Within the DQWG, there is an action identified to provide some recommendations to Member States for the allocation of CATZOC values from S-44 survey classification orders.
- Within the CBSC, a C-55 Project Team has been tasked to consider the possibility of using these very CATZOC values to automatically populate the C-55 database.

NORWAY (Vote = YES)

Minor mistake in section B-151.1: UKHO has taken over responsibility for INT-1 from Germany

Comments by NCWG Chair/IHO Secretariat:

The NCWG Chair/IHO Secretariat thank Norway for their comment, which is duly noted. This will be corrected in the version to be published.

SPAIN (Vote = NO)

Editorial corrections proposed to replace old IHO logo/seal, copyright dates, Edition numbers in footers, etc.

IHM's comment on B-422.7:

In point 422.7, which is added to the S4, the shipwrecks that have seen their depth reduced, and therefore become more dangerous for navigation, are mentioned. At this point, it is proposed to analyse the new survey to see the discrepancy in depth (it could be due to the disintegration of the shipwreck, etc.) and also the comparison with the previous survey to determine the cause of the discrepancy of both measurements. It also raises consulting the port authority to see if there are plans to withdraw it. Our doubt is in the representation in the letter, since nothing is mentioned.

On the other hand, we do not understand the purpose of this new point, since that way of proceeding would be valid for any object in the letter, not specifically only about shipwrecks.

Any object represented on the chart in which a discrepancy in its depth is known should be analyzed, and where appropriate corrected in the shortest possible time.

Therefore, we do not agree to add this point.

Comments by NCWG Chair/IHO Secretariat:

The NCWG Chair/IHO Secretariat thank Spain for their comments. For the editorial corrections proposed, see the response given to the comment from Australia (see above).

As for B-422.7, the comment for Spain is duly noted. It is also noted that similar arguments were offered during the discussion at the NCWG meeting. It is reminded that, after having considered different arguments, the NCWG finally agreed to add this wording, mainly to address the use case of possible debris attached to the wreck, not removed, for which it is up to the Hydrographic Office to select the most appropriate K symbol.

TUNISIA (Vote = NO)

The Tunisian Navy Hydrographic and Oceanographic Center approves most of the changes and clarifications mentioned in the proposed revision and really appreciates the effort made by the Nautical Cartography Working Group to ensure the safety of navigation and to keep up with the evolution of sea operations. However, we think that the inserted paragraph B-422.7 A, as described, would be better introduced in the S-44 IHO standard rather than in the S-4 standard where cartographers expect to find charts' production specifications and cartographic features symbology and description.

Furthermore, mention should be made that issue discussed in the aforementioned paragraph is already resolved by issuing charts' updates.

Comments by NCWG Chair/IHO Secretariat:

The Chair/IHO Secretariat thank Tunisia for their comments.

In addition to the comment on B-422.7 made in response to Spain (see above) that can be of interest, it is confirmed that this new B-422.7 has been proposed on the request from cartographers and that it is related to chart content and maintenance – both key aspects of S-4. However, it is noted that the proposed addition in S-4 does not prevent the newly established HSWG (IHO CL 09/2021 refers) from considering B-422.7 as it stands for the moment, for the maintenance of S-44 if appropriate.