

**4th CSPCWG MEETING
Monaco, 13-15 November 2007**

Paper for Consideration by CSPCWG

Proposed new principles for CSPCWG

Submitted by:	AU
Executive Summary:	CSPCWG adopt principles regarding the authority of M-4 and INT1 in particular. These principles could be added to the CSPCWG Procedures.
Related Documents:	CSPCWG Procedures (CSPCWG4-07A). M-4 B-160 Updating System for the Specifications. IHO TR K 2.11
Related Projects:	CSPCWG task E – maintenance of M-4 supplementary publications INT1, INT2 and INT3. INT1 SubWg activities.

Introduction / Background

Following the CSPCWG Report to CHRIS18, there was some discussion about the authority of the Chart Specifications of the IHO (M-4) and it is Australia's understanding that M-4 is the specification and that INT1 is supplementary to M-4. Following this clarification, AU believes that the CSPCWG should adopt certain principles regarding additions or updates to the IHO publications, as outlined in this report.

Analysis / Discussion

Over the last 12 months or so, the INT1 SubWg was formed to reconcile major differences between the 3 official INT1s as produced by DE, ES and FR. There have also been numerous updates to the official INT1s following the major review of M-4, still in progress. Currently changes to either document can drive changes to the other. As M-4 is the specification, AU believes that once the official INT1s are reasonably reconciled, that no further changes should be made to an official INT1 unless it is first published in M-4. This should be the order of change, first to the specifications, then to a related supplementary publication such as INT1, INT2 or INT3.

If this principle is adopted, all entries in the official INT1s should be checked against M-4. As an example, the list of approved chart abbreviations should be included in M-4 and then either this list, or a sub-set of it be included in the official INT1s. It is suggested that this task of checking the content of INT1 against M-4 could be undertaken by the INT1 SubWg to CSPCWG.

Secondly, as CSPCWG is the authority for the terms and descriptions in the specifications, it should also be the authority for the actual wording within all the M-4 official supplements. This principle would apply to the three languages adopted by the IHO, namely English, French and Spanish as various language versions of M-4 and its supplements are revised and published. The descriptions in INT1 as an example, may be a sub-set of M-4, but must be fully described in the mother specification M-4. The supplements must not include any description or term which is not in M-4. It will take some time for this principle to be fully implemented as currently there is only an English edition of M-4. However as English is also included in each of the official INT1s, each English term and description should be identical. Eventually when French and Spanish editions of M-4 become available, the French and Spanish terms and descriptions used in any official M-4 supplements must again agree with or be a sub-set of that in M-4.

These proposed principles are made with an aim at improving the consistency of our chart specifications and providing the mariner, as a major user of INT1, more consistent advice regarding chart symbols, abbreviations and terms.

There may be other principles that others may wish to add to these.

If CSPCWG agrees to adopt these principles, we need a place to publish them and we have three publications that may be suitable, namely M-4 itself, an IHO Technical Resolution or within the CSPCWG procedures. As these are really principles for this WG, it is suggested that they could either be woven into section 4 of the existing procedures, or be adopted as a new section within the Procedures.

AU does not believe there will be any cost impacts on the maritime industry, Member States or other involved parties, as most of these tasks have already been undertaken by the INT1 SubWg. These principles could be adopted when the three official INT1s are considered to be at a state of consistency between themselves and that may be now or within a short period of time, possibly within the next 12 months or so. The INT1 SubWg may be in a position to advise on this matter.

Conclusions

These principles, if adopted, help to clarify the role and responsibilities of the CSPCWG and provide more consistent advice not only to mariners, but also to those member states involved in chart production, both paper and electronic.

Recommendations

That a new section be added to the CSPCWG procedures:

5. Principles in the publication of additions and updates to the Chart Specifications of the IHO (M-4) and its supplementary publications.

5.1 As M-4 is the specification, no updates or additions should be made to any of its official supplementary publications unless it is first published in M-4;

5.2 The terms used in any official M-4 supplementary publication must be identical to those used in the Chart Specification of the IHO;

5.3 The descriptions used in any official M-4 supplementary publication must be identical to or a sub-set of those used in the Chart Specification of the IHO;

5.4 That all English terms and descriptions used in the official INT1s be identical;

5.5 The CSPCWG is the authority for all terms and descriptions used in any official M-4 supplementary publications; and

5.6 The INT1 SubWg be tasked with the review of the official INT1s to comply with these principles and provide an indication of the time it will take to make all M-4 supplementary publications comply.

Justification and Impacts

If agreed, these principles will restrict what additions and updates can be applied to the official M-4 supplementary publications, but will also provide more consistent advice to chart compilers and users. Tighter specifications lead to easier production of automated tools to check and verify charted data. These principles would cause additional work by the members of the INT1 SubWg initially, but would then become part of the procedures of this WG in the maintenance and development of its specifications. It is Australia's understanding that this is not a new work item as such, but a tightening up of the procedures of this WG. Suggested priority is to implement as many of these principles as soon as they can be practically implemented, but subject to any further recommendations of the INT1 SubWg as indicated in Recommendation 5.6 above.

Action required of CSPCWG

The CSPCWG is invited to agree to the above recommendations.