

**8th CSPCWG Meeting
Turku, Finland, 29 November – 2 December 2011**

Paper for Consideration by CSPCWG8

ARC-POINTER

Submitted by:	Spain
Executive Summary:	Establish specifications in S4 and INT-1 about “Arc-pointer” device
Related Documents:	Guideline n° 1073 IALA
Related Projects:	S4/INT-1

Introduction/Background

IALA, in its Draft n° 1073 (Conspicuity of AtoN lights at Night) recommends to use the “Arc- Pointer AB01”, as one of the best solutions to identify the entrance of a harbour.

Analysis/ Discussion

Spain (ES) is experimenting with shaped ‘Pointer’ lights to highlight the position of an AtoN against heavy background lighting. In the port of Barcelona a new prototype of a device pointer in the shape of an arc was installed. Its main objective of this arc-pointer was to improve the identification of the AtoN light. Since its installation, user feedback has been collected and the opinion of users is highly positive.

The device is an arc of light that is installed on the shore next to an existing AtoN light. The arc-pointer displays a circular sequence of lights that gives the user the impression of a moving pointer. This is used to ‘point’ to the position of an AtoN light. The arc-pointer is not itself an AtoN but it can be used as such by the mariner until the actual AtoN light is identified.





Arc-Pointer device installed in the port of Barcelona

This arc-pointer is more conspicuous than any other background lightning because of its shape, colour and the apparent movement caused by the sequenced flashing. Moreover, since the arc is oriented perpendicular to the direction of approach to the port, the observed shape of the arc can also give an indication of position. If the mariner is taking a direct approach to the port entrance, a circular shaped arc will be seen. Whereas if an oblique approach is taken, the mariner will see an elliptical shaped arc.

There are not specifications regarding any symbol for “Arc-Pointer” either in S4 or INT-1.

This type of light could be include in point 478 (Various Special Forms of Lighting) of S4. Although “Arc-pointer” is not an aid to navigation (AtoN) could be very useful for mariners in the approach to harbours.

VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR SYMBOLS S4/ INT-1

(arc-pointer)



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*The light characteristics of “Arc-Pointer” are unrelated to the lateral lights

Conclusions

ES feels it is necessary to include in S4 (description and symbol) and INT-1 (P-67) specifications about “Arc-Pointer”.

Recommendations

Spain recommends the adoption of a new symbol for “Arc-Pointer” and its inclusion in S4/INT-1.

Justification and Impacts

- Amend S4 and INT-1
- Create the new symbol in libraries.

Action required of CSPCWG

The CSPCWG is invited to discuss the necessity for a S4/INT symbol for arc-pointer.