

9th CSPWG MEETING
Seoul, Republic of Korea, 13-16 November, 2012

Paper for Consideration by CSPCWG

Light vessels

Submitted by:	UK
Executive Summary:	Was the 1994 decision to use the same symbol for Light Vessels as Lanbys correct?
Related Documents:	S-4, INT1
Related Projects:	None

Introduction / Background.

IHO Member States approved (by CL15/1994) the use of the P6/Q26 'LANBY' symbol for all major floating lights in response to CL 44/1993. All 'major floating lights' includes 'light vessels' by definition; see (B-474.1). The old Light Vessel symbol (boat shape with three masts and an X on the central mast) became obsolescent (P6 Column 4). It is understood that this symbology change was originally proposed by IALA. Unfortunately, these CLs are not available on the IHO website and the Secretary has not been able to recover any copies.

The following email was recently sent to the Secretary, by a retired navigator in UKHO who is currently a senior editor of UKHO's Admiralty Sailing Directions:

Andrew,

We seem to have a situation where there are inconsistencies between what is shown on the chart, how we describe a light vessel and what is actually on station. For example we have:

Channel LV	Chart 2656	Symbol Q31 Listed under "Minor Light Floats" as "Minor light float not part of IALA system"
	Chart 2454	Symbol Q26 "Superbuoy. Superbuoys are very large buoys ..."
	Chart 2669	Symbol Q31
	SD description	"Channel Light Float (red hull, light tower amidships)"
	Light ListA1520	"red hull light tower amidships"
Foxtrot 3 LV	Chart 2449	Symbol Q26
	Chart 323	Symbol Q26
	Chart 1183	Symbol Q26
Greenwich LV	Chart 2656	Symbol Q31
	Chart 2451	Symbol Q26
	Chart 2450	Symbol Q26
	SD description	"Greenwich Light Float (red hull, 'Greenwich' in white, light tower amidships, 12 m in height."
	Light ListA1520	"red hull 'Greenwich' in white light tower amidships, 12 m in height"

These three examples are all actually light vessels, that is they have a ship-shaped hull with a mast amidships, from which the lights are exhibited. From a mariner's point of view the Q26 symbol is misleading as he would expect to see a Lanby-like buoy, that is a circular hull about 5 m in diameter. The mismatch between the shape of what

the mariner sees and the shape of what is shown on the chart introduces an element of doubt in the mariner's mind which we should be helping to avoid.

I fully accept that the small print of the IHO chart specifications [S-4] may allow a ship shape to be represented by a Lanby shape, but the mariner does not refer to IHO specifications when carrying out practical navigation.

I would make two points:

1. That the use of symbol Q30 or 31 would be a better symbol than Q26 for those aids listed by Trinity House as light vessels.
2. That we should re-introduce into 5011 [INT1] a proper symbol for light vessels and the symbol should look like a light vessel.

Analysis / Discussion.

While the symbol used does not matter at night, when it is only the light description which is important, could it be significant to the mariner if the structure he actually sees is nothing like the symbol on the chart?

Do LANBYs still exist? All have been withdrawn in waters around British Isles.

It is believed that the distinction of a light vessel being manned and a light float being unmanned is now time expired. (This distinction is still referenced in UKHO's Mariner's Handbook glossary and in FR INT1 Q31.) In reality, they may look identical.

See Annex for various definitions.

Conclusions.

None

Recommendations.

None

Justification and Impacts.

None at present

Action required of CSPCWG.

The CSPCWG is invited to:

Consider whether any change should be made, eg:

- reintroduce the obsolescent Light Vessel symbol (P6)
- widen the application of 'minor light float' symbols (Q30/31) to include light vessels
- Use Q31 with 'all-round light' circle on multicoloured charts.

Definitions from IALA dictionary

Light vessel/Lightship. A vessel designed to carry a signal light of high luminous intensity, and moored or anchored at a designated geographical location to assist marine navigation.

Light float. An unmanned floating mark that is commonly boat-shaped and is fitted with a signal light. It may carry various additional aids to navigation.

Definitions from S-32

Light Vessel. See [lightship](#).

Lightship. A distinctively marked vessel anchored or moored at a charted point, to serve as an [aid to navigation](#). By night it displays a characteristic [light](#), and is usually equipped with other devices, such as a [fog signal](#), [submarine sound signal](#), and [radiobeacon](#), to assist [navigation](#). Also called light vessel.

Light float. A boat-like structure used instead of a light buoy in waters where strong streams or currents are experienced, or when a greater elevation than that of a light buoy is necessary.

S-12

These are not defined in S-12. However, S-12 does contain the following table.

The typographic elements employed allow the following distinctions to be made:

CAPITALS	geographic entities
lowercase upright and bold	land based lights with nominal range of at least 15 nautical miles
lowercase upright and light	other land based lights, resilient and buoyant beacons
<i>ITALIC CAPITALS</i>	<i>light vessels</i>
<i>lowercase italic</i>	<i>light floats and all other floating lights/buoys</i>

Definitions from UKHO's 'Mariner's Handbook'

light vessel. A manned vessel, secured in a designated locality carrying a light of high luminous intensity and usually sounding a fog signal to assist navigation. Also known as lightship.

light float. An unmanned fully-automated vessel, comparable in size to a light vessel, or a boat-shaped unmanned float carrying a light and sometimes sounding a fog signal. The former is a major navigational light; the latter may sometimes be used instead of a light buoy where there are strong tidal streams or currents.