

9th CSPCWG MEETING
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Paper for Consideration by CSPCWG

Paper Chart Text Styles

Submitted by:	Australia
Executive Summary:	On Australian charts, the general convention used when determining whether a piece of text on a chart is in upright or sloping text style is dependant on whether the associated feature is a hydrographic or topographic feature. The question has been raised in our office as to whether this is an accepted international convention and, if so, why this is not stated in S-4.
Related Documents:	IHO S-4, Section B-100.
Related Projects:	S-4 maintenance.

Introduction / Background

1. S-4 Section B-100 includes the general conventions to be used on charts. On Australian charts, the general convention used when determining whether a piece of text on a chart is in upright or sloping text style is dependant on whether the associated feature is a hydrographic or topographic feature. The question has been raised in our office as to whether this is an accepted international convention and, if so, why this is not stated in S-4 Section B-100.

Analysis / Discussion

2. Throughout S-4 and INT1, it appears that the general criteria for the determination as to whether a piece of text to be included on a chart is as follows:

- Upright text is used for:
 - Chart framework including chart number; title block; marginal notes; graticule values; corner coordinates; compass roses and other magnetic data; cautionary and explanatory notes; references to other charts; and scale bars.
 - Topographic features, including features in the water that stand clear of the height datum for the chart.
 - Fixed aids to navigation and related track bearings (including radar bearings).
 - Land boundaries.
- Sloping text is used for:
 - Hydrographic features and other features that stand at or below the height datum for the chart.
 - Floating aids to navigation.
 - Marine boundaries, areas and limits.
 - Routes.

3. There are some exceptions to these general criteria, such as distinct use of upright and sloping style for soundings, and upright text for buoyant beacons, but these exceptions are generally well specified in S-4.

4. The statement used in our office when training new cartographers is that “topographic and fixed features have any associated text shown in upright style, and hydrographic and floating features have any associated text shown in sloping style”. Our cartographers are always instructed to consult S-4 and INT1 if unsure, but in general this statement is consistent with the guidance in S-4 and depiction in INT1, and provides an easy to remember first principle rule. Recently, the question has been raised as to why there is no statement supporting this general convention in S-4.

5. While this is the general convention used for Australian charts, and this appears to be supported by S-4, is this convention followed by all Producing Authorities? If the answer to this question is yes, then it is considered that a statement declaring such a convention should be included in S-4. Such guidance could

be added at B-125.3 (alternately at B-129, but would not be in such a logical order with B-128 being “Terms Used When Issuing Charts”), and read similar to:

Text styles. In general, text associated with topographic and fixed features is shown in upright text, and text associated with hydrographic and floating features is shown in sloping text. Exceptions to this general convention are described in the relevant clauses in the Specifications. All text associated with the chart framework (see B-200) must be in upright text.

Conclusions

6. The general convention for text styles in S-4 and INT1 appears to be the use of upright text for topographic features and sloping text for hydrographic features. If this is the case, this should be added as a general standardisation convention in S-4 Section B-100.

Recommendations

7. It is recommended that:

- Producing Authorities be consulted as to whether their general convention for text styles is to use upright text for topographic features and sloping text for hydrographic features.
- If it this is the generally used convention, then this be included in S-4 – B-100.

Justification and Impacts

8. Such a simple general convention will provide cartographers with an easy to remember first principle rule when determining the required text style. Impact is on S-4 only.

Action required of CSPCWG

9. The CSPCWG is invited to:

- a. consider this paper; and
- b. discuss, on the merit of the Recommendations and Justifications above, whether further action is required.