



CHART STANDARDIZATION & PAPER CHART WORKING GROUP (CSPCWG)

[A Working Group of the Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems – CHRIS]

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To CSPCWG Members

Date 21 June 2007

Dear Colleagues,

Subject: IHC 1997, Decision No 9 – Issue of charts in bilingual version, round 2

We are grateful to the 17 members who responded to our letter 05/2007, on the use of English language on charts. As can be seen from the summary of responses attached at Annex A, there were clear majorities in favour of both the proposed location in M4 and the draft wording. However, there were also helpful suggestions for some improvements, which we have attempted to include in this slightly amended submission.

1. Location in M4

Although it has been agreed that the location should be in sub-section B510, which is entitled 'Language – General Rules', there remains an argument for a reference much earlier in M4, in the 'Standardization Levels' section at B110. We therefore propose a minor change at B110.5, so that the first sentence reads: 'Standardization of language and names in B-500 conforms to relevant international practice'. We also agree, as suggested by Denmark, that the title of Section 500 could be improved and propose to change it to: 'Text: Language, Numbers, Names, Type Styles'. Together, these two changes should ensure that the cartographer can easily locate the guidance on use of language. We have also noted to include a cross reference to the new B510.4 at B122, when it is published.

2. Draft Specification

In attempting to implement the instruction given to the CSC (Chart Standardization Committee – our predecessor technical group) at IHC 1997, we were concerned to avoid enlarging the scope of the original decision, and thereby creating the need for further modification to B500. We did not therefore include chart titles in the text, as they were not mentioned specifically in the original IHC decision. To include titles would add many complications which would need very thorough and probably protracted discussions. That will have to await the full revision of B500 in accordance with our Work Plan priorities.

France, supported by Brazil and Spain, expressed the view that the need for English translations of legends should be limited to INT charts. While fully understanding this point of view, there is nothing in the original IHC decision to imply this. Similarly, SOLAS Chapter V (which covers charts and language)

‘applies to all ships on all voyages unless expressly provided otherwise’ (Regulation 1). It is important to understand that the proposal accepted by the IHC amounts to a *recommendation* (this is clearer in the more detailed IHC report, the word ‘recommended’ actually being used by the Charts A committee). Hence, in accordance with our usual practice, a recommendation translates into ‘should’, leaving some latitude for HOs to apply it as it sees fit, especially in relation to its national charts. Nevertheless, with the drive towards greater standardization, I believe it would be wrong to imply that the recommendation is only intended for INT charts. We must also take account of the fact that in many areas there are no INT charts.

Taking these views into consideration, we have slightly amended the draft, using some suggestions made by France, and attach it at Annex B for your further consideration (changes in red sloping script). We have not included the line about INT1, as M4 is not intended as a chart user document and cartographers do not need this advice.

I do not think it appropriate to remove B242.4, as the advice about ‘if space permits’ is still valid, as stated by France. I have made a note to add a further cross reference to B510.4 here in due course.

For INT 1, I agree with the view of the subWG that it is unnecessary to complicate the graphic at Section A by adding English language legends in the title area. Nor is there a need to refer to ‘English being the accepted language of the sea’ in the Introduction; the chart user is fully aware of this.

We have noted the need for a discussion about glossaries at CSPCWG4. Please would Germany provide an explanatory note to support this discussion in due course.

There is no need to respond to this letter but if you have further comments, please provide them by 19 July 2007.

Yours sincerely,



Peter G.B. Jones,
Chairman

Annex A: Summary of responses to CSPCWG Letter 05/2007

Annex B: Revised draft for new B-510.4

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO CSPCWG LETTER 05/2007

	Question	Yes	No
1	Do you agree with the proposed location of the draft specification for use of English language on charts? If no, please state preferred location.....	AU, BR, CA, DE, ES, FR, GR, HR, IT, JP, NL, UA, UK, US, ZA	DK, FI, NO
2	Do you agree with the wording of the draft specification at Annex A? If 'no', please explain further below	AU, CA, DE, DK, FI, GR,HR, IT, JP, NL, NO, UA, UK, US, ZA	BR, ES, FR

Additional comments (including any comments about the implications for INT 1):

AU:

Q2: agree with the proposed wording but excluding the square bracketed [] sections as you have suggested.

It is also suggested that a new cross reference be added to B-122 to this new B-510.4.

Also, at CSPCWG3, Michel mentioned chart titles in English that can be adopted for the world catalogues, especially those within M-11. It is agreed that cautionary notes definitely need to be in English, but chart titles also appears to be in keeping with IHC 1997 Decision No 9 (all legends on charts). AU therefore suggests that consideration be given to including 'Chart titles' in the proposed B-510.4 as follows:

Consequently, English language versions of all **chart titles and** notes should be included on all non-English charts. **Other** navigationally significant legends should also be given in English, or if more convenient, listed in a glossary (key) on the chart. (*proposed changes highlighted in yellow*)

INT1 issues:

1. That a statement be added to the INT1 Introduction about English being the accepted language for navigational purposes and for communication at sea.
2. If the WG members agree to add chart titles also in English, A 10 be updated to include English.

BR:

We do not agree that all charts should have their notes and legends translated to English. We have many national charts which are not mandatory for international shipping and therefore should not have to be translated. M-11 (Guidance for the preparation and maintenance of International Chart Schemes) clearly states the difference between national charts and international charts. A study is being undertaken to determine which large scale charts should become INT charts, but it is clear that many charts are just suitable for local shipping and national users.

We totally agree with Yves Le Franc's response.

CA:

Canada has an official bilingual policy so all modern charts currently show English and French for all notes, titles and selected names.

DE:

Q1: A cross reference in B10 [[Sec: presume B110 is intended](#)] to B-510.4 should be added. The title of section 500 should be renamed when we are dealing with this section.

Q2: The wording can be with or without the square bracketed section. A cross reference in B-122 to B-510.4 should be added. Regarding the chart titles I follow the comments of Chris Roberts. The INT1 issue should be discussed at the next CSPCWG meeting. It is not necessary to include a wording in the introduction section or at A10 (here we can include the reference to B-510.4). B-241 should also have a cross reference to language on charts (B-510.4).

We had and still have a long discussion in our service about glossaries, their contents, use and redundancy with section V (and W). This should also be a topic to be discussed with section 500 or at CSPCWG4. I support to minimize the glossary on a chart, if the same is explained or can be taken out of INT1.

DK:

Q1. The preferred location is **B-110.4**. Consequently the current sections B-110.4 and B-110.5 must be re-numbered.

The reason for this is that I find it important - as early as possible - in the specifications to draw the compiler's attention to the fact that his chart titles, legends and notes are supposed to be translated into English.

However if the majority votes for the inclusion in section B-510 the heading of section B-500 must be changed. Today the section is named: 'GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES, LETTERING, NUMERALS. In my opinion a compiler would never expect to find anything about 'Language on charts' except when used in conjunction with geographical names.

For your information, Denmark has for many years translated all notes and legends into English.

ES:

Q2. We fully agree with the views expressed by SHOM (France) and we support their proposed corrections to para B-510.4.

FI:

Q1. I prefer 'standardization' section B-110.

FR:

Q2. SOLAS regulation 14 of Chapter V, applies to ships to which chapter I applies. However, SOLAS chapter I states (regulation 1.a) : “unless expressly provided otherwise, the present Regulations apply only to ships engaged on international voyages”.

Also, English is the accepted language for navigational purposes and for communication at sea for ships engaged on international voyages. That means that English language should be more expected on charts which are used by multiple foreign users (such as INT charts).

For national charts mainly used by national users (the user and the chart “speak” a common language other than English – see end of regulation 14), bilingual legends would be more a disadvantage than an advantage.

The disadvantages are the heaviness of the texts of the chart (and their corrections by NTMs), the space needed; for the HOs, the work to translate. For charts not initially designed for the bilingual requirement and with a lot of notes and legends, it will be impossible to find enough space (remember B-242.4 : Translation. If space permits, cautionary notes on non-English language charts should be duplicated in English under the national wording.)

So, to facilitate the implementation of decision n°9 proposal, it seems useful to suggest that bilingual charts are more appropriate for those used by multiple foreign users (normally INT charts).

Moreover, national INT1s are likely a good means to give the English translation of words used on non-English Charts. Perhaps, we could encourage this in B-151.

Note that the decision n°9 proposal doesn't apply to all non-English charts (not to fac-similes for example) as said in the sentence "consequently, English language versions ...".

Note that isn't sure that all words need to be translated. For example, is it necessary to translate 'Chenal d'accès' in "Access channel" or "Cheminée" in "Chimney"?

A last point : With the new B-510.4, the § B-242.4 is no more useful and should be removed.

So, for B-510.4, I suggest:

B-510.4 Language on charts. English is the accepted **international** language for navigational purposes and for communication at sea. See also B-122.

At the 1997 International Hydrographic Conference, Decision No 9 was:

It is proposed that each Hydrographic Office which does not issue charts in the English language give all legends on charts affecting its territorial waters in its national language and in English.

Consequently **to this proposal**, English language versions of all notes should be included on **all** non-English charts **produced by HO**. Navigationally significant legends should also be given in English **when necessary**, or if more convenient, listed in a glossary (key) on the chart. **English language versions of notes and legends are particularly appropriate on charts used for international shipping (such as INT charts).**

National INT1 publications are also a means to give the translation into English of words used on non-English Charts.

GR:

Greece agrees with the proposal of Denmark for harmonizing the heading of Section B-500 with the content of "Language on charts" specifications.

IT:

ITHO uses English and National language for INT Charts, for national charts we are changing, when we have a new chart or new edition, from only National language into National and English language (so is a "light" version of INT chart).

NL:

NLHO uses only English language for INT Charts and for national charts two languages: Netherlands and English

NO:

Q1: B-110.

US (NOAA):

NOAA has no objection to the draft specification, but our charts are in English anyway. The specification does not affect us. Producers of non-English language charts have more at stake on this issue. Do your charts have enough space for duplicating notes in English?

ZA:

Q1. South Africa is not really affected by this issue. English is one of our national languages so as we have 11 official languages, Afrikaans is slowly disappearing off our SAN charts. NC and NE are only published in the English language, in particular notes etc. Names is a different issue.

Q2. In INT 1, this should be an option in terms of translating of terminology etc but English must be used as an international language. As in para 1 above, our INT 1 is only in English.

B-510.4 Language on charts. English is the accepted *international* language for navigational purposes and for communication at sea (*SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 14 refers*). See also B-122.

The 1997 International Hydrographic Conference decided that each Hydrographic Office which does not issue charts in the English language *should* give all legends on charts affecting its territorial waters in its national language and in English (*Decision 9*).

Consequent *to this decision*, English language versions of all notes should be included on *all* non-English charts. Navigationally significant legends should also be given in English, or if more convenient, listed in a glossary (key) on the chart. *English language versions of notes and legends are particularly appropriate on charts used for international shipping.*