

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC  
ORGANIZATION



ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE  
INTERNATIONALE

## CHART STANDARDIZATION & PAPER CHART WORKING GROUP (CSPCWG)

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

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Dear Colleagues

### **Subject: PEL lights**

At the second CSPCWG meeting (2005), we discussed the subject of 'PEL' lights. At the time it was understood that PEL was an abbreviation for Port Entry Light, as that was the usage in UK's List of Lights from about 2002. This assumption was accepted at CSPCWG2 without challenge and has subsequently been included in the first draft revision of M-4, at B-475.7.

We are grateful to Chris Roberts (Australia) who decided to check this derivation. We have subsequently discovered that the abbreviation originated in Vega Industries Limited, which was established in 1972 in New Zealand, to commercialise the recently-invented PEL Sector Light. According to their website, the original founders of Vega included Mr Norm Rumsey who was a prominent optical designer at the time, and was invited to design the first PEL Light. The letters 'PEL' actually stand for '*Physics and Engineering Laboratory*' where Mr Rumsey worked at the time. Since then PEL has been used as a brand name (trade name) for the particular type of precise-sector directional light marketed by Vega Industries. It seems that the expansion of PEL to stand for Port Entry Lights has no foundation, and may easily cause confusion as implying traffic signals, rather than sector lights.

I am therefore sending this letter to ensure that the incorrect assumption about the expansion of PEL to stand for Port Entry Light is eradicated. It also seems inappropriate to use a brand name in an International specification, so we will remove the reference to PEL from the revised M-4 specification in the next draft.

Yours sincerely,

Peter G.B. Jones,  
Chairman