



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

[A Working Group of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC)]

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### **CSPCWG Letter: 01/2014**

UKHO ref: HA317/010/032-13

Date 9 April 2014

Dear Colleagues

### **Subject: Use of 5-digit INT chart numbers**

References:

- A. BSICCWG Chair's letter, 31 October 2013
- B. IHO S-4, Section A-200 (particularly A-204).

The Chairman of the Baltic Sea International Charting Coordination Working Group (BSICCWG) and Coordinator of INT chart Region E, Jarmo Mäkinen, wrote to the CSPCWG Chairman, Peter Jones, on 31 October 2013, explaining the need for additional INT numbers for INT charts of the Baltic Sea area (Reference A). He stated that even if the allocation of additional numbers, needed for the time being, could be solved by using available vacant numbers, he believes that this is not a long-term solution because the few remaining unused INT numbers are very scattered and are illogical to use in one area.

He suggested solving the issue by either:

- allowing 5 digit numbers where needed or
- adding an area prefix to the numbers (e.g. E-1025).

Chairman CSPCWG responded:

I well appreciate the justifications that apply in Region E that you have explained very well. I have considered the merits of the following options, including those offered by you in Ref A:

**Inserting a prefix letter** to indicate the region (= E). My judgement is not to support this option because:

- Region E will not be a meaningful prefix for chart users or producers. I don't believe the regional identifiers are particularly well known outside our relatively limited community.
- There is the potential for misunderstanding with users (and possibly producers?) as letter prefixes are already used in the numbering of certain paper charts to indicate the producer nation. AUS (= Australia), JP (=Japan) and NZ (=New Zealand) are a few that I am immediately aware of. And in the European context, E is often used for España / Spain. You also have Estonia within your Baltic Sea community.
- As a non-numeric value, it may cause problems with metadata stores.

**Taking numbers from other Regions'** allocations. The most appropriate solution for this option is to take numbers from adjacent Region D which still falls within the 'major region' of 'East side of North Atlantic' (Ref B). However:

- This has already been done for some blocks of numbers from Region D. The Region D coordinator (Tim Wellington, UK) advises that
  1. the total remaining number of 'spares' are few and
  2. there are no large blocks of numbers remaining to allocate.
- This has already led to a rather mixed allocation of numbers to your Region E and was acknowledged to be only a short-term solution (as you describe it in your Ref A).
- The next Region for potential allocation of numbers could be from part of Region A, 'West side of North Atlantic' (Ref B). However, these INT numbers all start '4', so this option would totally undermine the long-established geographic principles.

**Extending the INT numbering to allow 5 digits.** This is my preferred option and advice. This will create many more numbers that can be allocated, by adding the 5<sup>th</sup> number to your existing blocks of 4 digit numbers (listed at Ref B). If this is acceptable to you, I have the following questions for your further consideration:

- Whether you seek to allocate (or re-allocate) numbers by geographic area and thereby improve the logical geographic basis of the regional numbering (Ref A notes how the numbering is now rather 'scattered').
- Whether you wish to assign 5 digit INT numbers to a particular scale-range or type of chart. Ref B allows for scale bands to be adjusted according to regional needs, but you could, for example, choose to allocate 5 digit INT numbers specifically to large scale charts (Ref A mentions Finland's change of approach to issue harbour plans as separate charts) or to the 'inland lakes' of Finland and Sweden.

Perhaps you could consider these aspects within your BSICCWG and how you may wish to implement (e.g. in your development of your database solution for C-55).

**The BSICCWG meeting 2-3 April 2014** agreed the BSICCWG Chair's proposal to extend the domain of Baltic Sea INT numbers. This includes the use of 5-digit numbers (by adding the fifth digit at the end of 4-digit number) when feasible. The other available 4-digit number blocks will be used when feasible.

We are now asking CSPCWG members for their approval of this small change, before asking MS in order to get their approval in time for inclusion of an amended A-204.2 in the next edition of S-4, for example, in September 2014 (when the revised B-500 section is published).

The proposed amendment to A-204.2 is at Annex A. Please respond using the response form at Annex B, **by 20 May 2014**. The time scale is slightly shorter than usual, to allow time for Member States consultation before issuing S-4 Edition 4.5.0.

Yours sincerely,



Jeff Wootton,  
Chairman

Annex A: Proposed amendment to A-204.2 to allow the use of 5-digit INT numbers  
Annex B: Response form

**Use of 5-digit INT chart numbers**

Add new note '3' to the NOTES section at the foot of the table in A-204.2:

3. In the event of 4 digits not providing sufficient INT numbers for a region, a 5<sup>th</sup> digit may be added at the unit end of the existing allocated 4 digit numbers. Alphabetical prefixes or suffixes should not be used.

Note: as a clarification, we will also take the opportunity to amend 'Region J' to 'Regions I & J'. Region I was formed out of Region J several years ago, but has never been listed in A-204.2. (Unfortunately, it is not possible to separate the allocation of the numbers to the two regions, as most were already allocated before the separation of the Regions).

**Use of 5-digit INT chart numbers**

Response Form

(please return to CSPCWG Secretary by 20 May 2014)

[andrew.coleman@ukho.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.coleman@ukho.gov.uk)

Question	Yes	No
Do you agree to add the proposed amendment to A204.2? (If 'no', please explain below)		

Further comments:

Name:

Member State: