

11th CHRIS MEETING
IHB, Monaco, 16-19 November 1999

REPORT
Colours & Symbols Maintenance Working Group (C&SMWG)

Since the last CHRIS Meeting, the C&SMWG have held two meetings. The first meeting was held at BSH, Hamburg, Germany, 14-15 December, 1998. The second meeting was held at CHS, Burlington, Ontario, Canada, 10-12 November, 1999. Both meetings were well attended (in excess of 30 participants) and both provided lively discussion and debate. Minutes of meetings are available upon request. Following the November, 99 meeting a Monitor Colour Calibration Workshop was held at Burlington with 12 participants in attendance.

The Hamburg meeting highlighted and focused on three inter-related topics. They were:

1. Type approval problems in dealing with colours & symbols (C&S) specification.
2. Over specification by C&SMWG and
3. User interface specifications.

In general, it was felt that the Presentation Library is based on sound scientific research, however, it has now reached its limit of complexity. It was suggested that it was now time to let evolution work with regard to presentation issues and try to find a degree of flexibility in the implementation of the C&S concept; without jeopardizing standardization .

Type-approval representatives stressed the importance of a less restrictive approach allowing for slight deviations coupled with the need to maintain stability in the C&S specifications.

A paper was tabled outlining guidance that maybe used by type- approval authorities in dealing with deviations from the C&S specifications.

The November, 99 meeting held in Canada focused on the requirement to simplify, condense and simplify the Presentation Library. Membership agreed that much has been learned from the industry over the past two years. Some members, however, warned of the challenges of streamlining, while at the same time striving for global acceptance.

The membership agreed that there was a need to revise the Terms of Reference of the C&SMWG to reflect changes in philosophy, specifically, the constant need to harmonize with various ECDIS related working groups and also to allow for greater industry participation. A new Terms of Reference was drafted based on guiding principles that would allow for more influence on C&S by the industry. (See attachment).

During the coming year the committee will focus on two main thrusts. They are: 1. simplification of the C&S specification and 2. examine (in conjunction with an IEC working group) the suitability of one (more universal) colour palate for use in varying ambient light conditions at sea.