

2nd NCWG MEETING
Monaco 26-29 April 2016

Paper for Consideration by the Nautical Cartography Working Group (NCWG)
Abbreviation or Full Word for Conspicuous Features

Submitted by:	Australia
Executive Summary:	A possible inconsistency exists in S-4 in relation to the guidance for textual identification of visually features and the guidance for the use of international abbreviations on charts.
Related Documents:	S-4
Related Projects:	

Introduction / Background

While performing quality assurance processes on chart compilations, the question has been repeatedly raised as to the Australian convention of using the international abbreviation, where it exists, in lieu of the full term to identify a charted topographic feature as visually conspicuous. This convention, while satisfying the guidance related to the use of international abbreviations in most of S-4, is inconsistent with the guidance at B-340.3.

Analysis / Discussion

S-4 – B-340.3 contains the following statement in relation to adding a legend to a charted feature to indicate the feature as being visually conspicuous:

Abbreviations should only be used if space is limited.

S-4 – B-122 contains guidance for the use of international abbreviations, including the table of international abbreviations at B-122.1. B-122 begins with the statement:

The term ‘**international abbreviation**’ is used to identify those abbreviations which have been agreed internationally and are recommended for use on all nautical charts.

In support of the statement at B-122, throughout S-4 there are various references (for instance at B-370 – Buildings and Urban Areas), where the use of the international abbreviation to textually identify a feature is specified as a “must” (mandatory requirement). There is no distinction made in this guidance for visually conspicuous or non-visually conspicuous features.

Additionally, S-4 – B-540.1 states the following:

International abbreviations are listed at B-122.1. For those terms for which an international abbreviation exists, full words and differing national abbreviations should not normally be used, except in toponyms. However, full words may be used in the chart title, tables and notes.

Australia uses the convention on its paper charts of using the international abbreviation in all cases, regardless as to whether the feature is visually conspicuous or non-visually conspicuous. We use this convention as there are many instances where, on a single chart, textual identification of instances of the same type of feature that are visually conspicuous and non-visually conspicuous is required. We consider that use of both the full word and the international abbreviation on a single chart may be confusing to the mariner, as well as being inconsistent representation.

Discussion on this with the UKHO indicated that the purpose for using the full word in lieu of the international abbreviation was that the full word makes the feature “stand out” more on the chart, as distinct from other charted non-visually conspicuous information. Australia feels that the revised specification for the general representation of topography at B-300 will result in generally less topographic detail being required to be charted (as is the case on Australian charts), and therefore this purpose is no longer relevant.

Conclusions

Australia considers that there is an inconsistency in S-4 between the general specification relating to the

use of international abbreviations in lieu of full words, and the specification for the use of full words in lieu of international abbreviations for conspicuous features.

Recommendations

Australia recommends that one of the following options is applied to S-4:

1. Remove the statement “Abbreviations should only be used if space is limited.” From S-4 – B-340.3.
2. Amend the statement at B-340.3 to read similar to “Abbreviations should be used as appropriate (see B-122.1), however the full word may be used to add additional emphasis to the feature if considered necessary.”

NOTE: Changes will also be required to the water tower example in the graphic at B-340.3, and similarly at INT1 – E2.

Justification and Impacts

This change to S-4 will result in more consistent presentation of information to the mariner, and may further aid the mariner who does not have English as their first language.

Action required of NCWG

The NCWG is invited to:

- a. **Discuss** this paper.
- b. **Approve** one of the changes to S-4 as included in the Recommendations above, and apply consequential change to INT1.