

Paper for Consideration by NCWG
Definition of exceptional circumstances to chart unexploded ordnance

Submitted by:	UK Hydrographic Office
Executive Summary:	UK has considered the guidance in S-4 regarding the charting of individual mines in exceptional circumstances and has established a UK classification of exceptional circumstances.
Related Documents:	S-4 B-442.3
Related Projects:	-

Introduction / Background

In the last couple of years there have been numerous reports of individual unexploded ordnance being found on the seabed in UK waters or being dumped back into the sea and then reported. S-4 B-442.3 states the following:

B-442.3 Dumped individual mines or explosives. Drifting mines cannot be inserted on paper charts. All mines or explosives could still constitute a hazard for vessels anchoring, fishing or engaged in submarine or seabed operations. If it is required, exceptionally, to chart them, this should be by a small circle of magenta T-shaped dashes (N2.1 – see B439.2) with the appropriate legend, for example: Mine; Explos, or equivalent; alongside, and/or a 'mine' symbol inside:



S-4 states that individual mines or explosives should only be charted in exceptional circumstances. The UK Hydrographic office wanted to define what the exceptional circumstances would be so that data assessment processes and charting policy would be easy to understand and efficient.

Analysis / Discussion

UK discussion considered the following aspects:

- Vast amount of unlocated ordnance
- Different types and sizes of ordnance
- Removing of ordnance
- Probability that ordnance moves position over time
- Probability that ordnance drifts from its reported position before settling on the seabed if dropped overboard from a vessel.

Conclusions

The UK stakeholders agreed the following definition of what constitutes exceptional criteria to chart individual explosives:

In UK Waters / Primary Charting areas, individual explosives should only be included on charts (if not cleared) where there is active seabed activity in defined areas:

- In or close to anchorage areas or reported anchorages
- In or close to maintained / dredged areas
- In or close to extraction areas

(Note that areas of fishing or diving activity are too large/ill-defined to include).

Recommendations

NCWG to consider if examples of exceptional circumstances would be useful to include in S-4 B-442.3

Justification and Impacts

This definition of exceptional circumstance will support greater efficiency in data assessment and charting action. It will also support greater consistency between different nations

products.

Action required of NCWG

The NCWG is invited to:

- a. note this shared experience in applying charting standard B-442.3