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| **NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHY Working Group** |

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**NCWG Letter: 06/2017**

UKHO ref: HA317/010/031-14

Finnish ref: LIVI/326/00.03.01/2017

Date 19 October 2017

**Subject: NCWG3 – Action 31: Digital repromat**

Dear Colleagues

Action 31 from NCWG3 requires me to draft amendments to S-4 Part A-500 for digital repromat (vector and raster) and circulate to WG members for review. This was an initiative from Italy, described in NCWG3-09.4A. However, although Italy proposed S-57 should be used for digital exchange, there was general agreement that repromat (as used for chart adoptions) would be better in a raster format.

Accordingly, I have drafted amended Section 500, with draft changes shown at Annex A. A clean copy is at Annex B. I have deliberately changed the emphasis from analogue to digital repromat, as I believe this now to be the normal (possibly only) method of exchange in use.

Please reply, using the Response form at Annex C, **by 14 December 2017**

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Heath-Coleman

Secretary NCWG

Annex A to NCWG Letter 06/2017

**SECTION 500**

EXCHANGE OF REPRODUCTION MATERIAL

**A-501 GENERAL**

**A-501.1** Reproduction material (repromat) is material made by the producer nation from which the chart may be reproduced, without redrafting, in modified facsimile by a printer nation. While it may be in analogue or digital form, it is now more usual, convenient and cost effective to exchange digital repromat.

**A-501.2** Repromat for New Charts, New Editions, Limited New Editions, Reprints and Notice to Mariners Blocks (see A-401.2) is supplied by producers at the request of printers (see A-402.2 and A-404.1). The terms, conditions and procedures for the exchange of repromat, including automatic supply if appropriate, will be established bilaterally between individual producer and printer nations (see A-601).

**A-502 DIGITAL REPROMAT**

**A-502.1 Digital repromat** may be in vector (using the Transfer Standard for Digital Hydrographic Data, S-57) or raster format.

**A-502.2 S-57** data is useful for data exchange, but not suitable for paper chart adoptions.

**A-502.3 Raster** format is more useful for modified facsimile ‘adoptions’ of paper charts, as this includes the cartographic elements (chart framework, text placement) which is not included in S-57. Ideally, each colour layer should be a separate file, the file format (for example Tagged Image Format - TIF) as agreed between producer and printer.

**A-502.4** Digital repromat can be supplied via File Transfer Protocol (FTP) or, for small NM blocks, as an email attachment. The repromat should be accompanied by an image of the complete chart, in Portable Document Format (PDF).

**A-503 ANALOGUE REPROMAT**

**A-503.1** The producer nation shall ensure that the repromat being provided to another nation meets certain standards given below. These represent a minimum specification and should permit the producer nation to use its normal work materials and procedures.

**A-503.2** Material Characteristics: Repromat will be prepared on stable base plastic or film. The size of the repromat will not vary from the computed chart size by more than ± 0,5 mm over the longest dimension of the chart graticule.

**A-503.3** Image Quality: Repromat images will be precise and free of blemishes and holes, so as not to require opaquing or other touch-up work.

**A-503.4** Amount and Form of Material: The most appropriate form and amount of repromat will be agreed as part of the bilateral arrangements between producer and printer nations. Repromat will be in negative or positive form depending upon the printing processes used by the nations concerned. The repromat will be accompanied by a copy of the chart itself.

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**A-504 PROCEDURES FOR ORDERING AND SUPPLYING REPROMAT**

**A-504.1 Analogue** repromat is sometimes ruined in the process of shipment, or delayed because the parcel was not properly identified. The following procedures should minimise such problems.

**A-504.2 Ordering repromat:** The printer nation requiring repromat of an international chart shall order such from the producer nation and shall identify the required repromat by the international number, followed by the national number.

**A-504.3 Point of Contact:** Each producer nation shall designate an addressee for requests for repromat.

**A-504.4 Ordering Procedures:** The printer nation shall order the repromat by letter or through the use of a requisition form. Requests shall specify that the repromat is being ordered under the relevant bilateral arrangement (see A-601.1).

**A-504.5 Wrapping and Packing:** Repromat shall be so packaged as to prevent damage in transit. A mailing tube or box of reinforced cardboard shall preferably be used.

**A-504.6 Supply Method:** The method of shipment shall be determined when the bilateral arrangement is established. Over long distances air shipment is recommended as, although relatively expensive, it is the fastest and least likely to result in damage. Appropriate identification on the parcel shall be made to preclude undue delay to the parcel in the Customs Clearing House of the receiving nation.

**A-504.7 Receipt for Material:** The receiving nation shall acknowledge receipt of each shipment of repromat and shall provide a documentary receipt to the producing nation.

**A-505 PAYMENT FOR REPROMAT**

**A-505.1** Where financial terms and conditions are agreed, they should in accordance with A-601.

Annex B to NCWG Letter 06/2017

**SECTION 500**

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Annex C to NCWG Letter 06/2017

**NCWG3 – Action 31: Digital repromat**

Response Form

(please return to NCWG Secretary by 14 December 2017)

andrew.coleman@ukho.gov.uk

If you vote ‘No’ to any of the following questions, please explain in the ‘Comments’ section.

| **No.** | **Question** | **Yes** | **No** |
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| 1 | Do you agree with the draft sub-sections A-501 and A-502? |  |  |
| 2 | Are you aware of any member states still exchanging analogue repromat? |  |  |
| 3 | Is there any value in retaining any of A-503 (ex A-502), A-504 and A-505? |  |  |

Further comments:

Name:

Organization: