Alternative Notices to Mariners Services

This guide provides information for using alternative Notices to Mariners services to correct paper charts and nautical publications covering Australia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

While the Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) refers to a Paper Nautical Chart (PNC), the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) refers to them as a Standard Nautical Chart (SNC), and markets them under the 'Admiralty' or 'British Admiralty (BA)' brand names.

A number of services can supply Australian Notices to Mariners (NtM), tailored to a vessel's specific portfolio of charts from multiple nations. These services include Notices for **all** charts produced by the AHO, which exceeds the number reproduced by the UKHO. Services that include Australian NtMs are available from:

- UKHO, Admiralty Notices (for adopted charts only)
- OneOcean

Why does the UKHO's Admiralty series include charts produced by the AHO?

The AHO produces PNC for:

- Australia and its territories and Timor-Leste (AUS),
- Papua New Guinea and its islands (PNG),
- Solomon Islands (SLB).

Around 25% of these charts are reproduced (copied) by the UKHO for inclusion in the Admiralty SNC series. The selected charts are those that cater for international commercial vessels, with the UKHO combining them with the charts from other nations to provide a world-wide service.

Does the UKHO produce original charts and NtM covering AUS, PNG and SLB waters?

No. The UKHO does not produce any original charts of waters already charted by Australia. Similarly, it does not produce any original NtM for these areas. Both are copied from original Australian material supplied by the AHO.

New editions and NtM within the UKHO's Admiralty services are generally available five weeks after publication by the AHO.

It should be noted that, on occasion, ships using Admiralty Notices, or awaiting an Australian published PNC to be reproduced by the UKHO, have been detained in port by Australian Port State Control inspectors until they acquire the AHO produced new edition; or update their chart in accordance with Australian NtM. On these occasions, Port State Control inspectors have based the assessment of currency of a ships PNC portfolio upon release by the AHO and availability from AHO distribution agents, not subsequent reproduction by the UKHO and later availability via their network.

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Can Australian charts acquired from an Admiralty supplier be corrected from Australian NtM?

Yes. AUS, PNG and SLB charts, and their Admiralty copies, have the same content and can be corrected from Australian NtM.

Can <u>all</u> AUS, PNG and SLB charts be corrected from Admiralty NtM?

No. If a chart has not been adopted by the UKHO, then the only place to obtain NtM for that chart is from Australian NtM editions published by the AHO. For more information see AHP24 Chart and Publication Maintenance Handbook, or the AHO Fact Sheet: Updating Paper Nautical Charts.

Can I alternate between Australian and Admiralty NtM for adopted PNC?

Yes. If a ship is going to alternate between Australian and Admiralty NtM then they should use the Australian NtM number for continuity. This number is included in both the original Australian Notice, and referenced as the source in the Admiralty reproduction of that Notice.

In the example below, an original Australian NtM appeared as correction number 126 in fortnightly edition 4 of 2023 (published on 27 February 2023).

Extract from Aus NtM Edition 4 of 2023

126 **AUSTRALIA - WESTERN AUSTRALIA - Port Hedland - Obstruction**
Former Notice - 991(T)/2021 is cancelled
Pilbara Ports Authority

Aus 53 [*865/2022*]
Insert depth, 6_5*m*, enclosed by danger circle, with legend *Obstn* 20° 14'.72 S 118° 37'.41 E

Aus 326 [*522/2021*]
Insert depth, 6_5*m*, enclosed by danger circle, with legend *Obstn* 20° 14'.72 S 118° 37'.34 E

Australian Notices to Mariners

The Australian Notice was subsequently reproduced by the UKHO in Admiralty NtM in the weekly edition 11 of 2023, (published on 06 March 2023) two weeks later. The extract below shows the Admiralty reproduction of the same Australian Notice. It highlights how the UKHO has referenced the Australian Notice as the source for the Admiralty reproduction. This is quoted in the format:

Source: Australian Notice Aus NtM Edition / Aus NtM number / Year

Extract from Admiralty weekly NtM Edition 11 of 2023

972 **AUSTRALIA - Western Australia - Obstruction.**
Source Australian Notice 4/126/23
Note: Former Notice 5113(T)/21 is cancelled

Chart Aus 53 [*previous update 4697/22*] WGS84 DATUM

Insert 6_5 *Obstn* 20° 14′·72S., 118° 37′·41E.

Chart Aus 326 [*previous update 2717/21*] WGS84 DATUM

Insert 6_5 *Obstn* 20° 14′·7S., 118° 37′·3E.

Admiralty 'Notices to Mariners'

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Do the same practices apply to Sailing Directions?

The three volumes of the Australia Pilot Vol I, II, and III are jointly published by the AHO and UKHO within the 'NP' series. There are no uniquely Australian originals. All updates are therefore released via Admiralty NtM only.

In the event differences are noted between corresponding information published by the AHO and UKHO, the information in the Australian chart or other Australian publication should be considered authoritative.

Do the same practices apply to other Nautical Publications?

No. Australia publishes AHP20 Mariners Handbook for Australian Waters and National Tide Tables for Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. All updates to these publications are released via Australian NtM only. Subsets of this information are repeated in various UKHO publications. While Admiralty NtM will generally follow the intent of changes made by the AHO, the specific content will be tailored to match the format used by the UKHO.

In the event differences are noted between corresponding information published by the AHO and UKHO, the information in the Australian publication should be considered authoritative.

Do the same practices apply to Notices published by other nations?

Yes. Admiralty NtM include reproductions of NtM issued by all nations for those charts adopted by the UKHO (but **only** those charts that have been adopted).

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