

B-122 INTERNATIONAL ABBREVIATIONS

The term ‘**international abbreviation**’ is used to identify those abbreviations which have been agreed internationally and are recommended for use on all nautical charts. Some of the abbreviations selected were already common to several languages. Alternatively, English language abbreviations were adopted or devised, in accordance with the long term policy of the IHO, and because the International Maritime Organization (IMO) suggests the use of English as the language of navigators. See also B-510.4.

B-122.1

International Abbreviations

A			F		
accom	Accommodation vessel	L 17	FS	Flagstaff, flagpolet	E 27
Aero	Aeronautical light	P 60, 61.1	FSO	Floating Storage and Offloading	L 17
† Aero RC	Aeronautical radiobeacon	S 16	FSU	Floating Storage Unit	L 17
AIS	Automatic Identification System	S 17, S 18	ft	Foot/feet	B 47
Al	Alternating	P 10.11	G		
ALC	Articulated Loading Column	L 12	G	Gravel	J 6
Am	Amber	P 11.8	G	Green	P 11.3, Q 2
ASL	Archipelagic Sea Lane	M 17	GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite System	
B			GPS	Global Positioning System	
B	Black	Q 2, 81	grt	Gross Register Tonnage	
bk	Broken	J 33	GT	Gross Tonnage	
Bn, Bns	Beacon(s)	P 4, 5, Q 80	H		
BnTr, BnTrs	Beacon tower(s)	P 3, Q 110	h	Hard	J 39
Bo	Boulder(s)	J 9.2	h	Hour	B 49
Br	Breakers	K 17	H	Helicopter	T 1.4
Bu	Blue	P 11.4	hor	Horizontally disposed	P 15
C			I		
c	Coarse	J 32	illum	Illuminated	P 63
ca	Calcareous	J 38	INT	International	A 2, T 21
CALM	Catenary Anchor Leg Mooring	L 16	Intens	Intensified	P 46
Cb	Cobbles	J 8	Iso	Isophase	P 10.3
cd	Candela	B 54	IUQ	Interrupted ultra quick	P 10.8
CG	Coastguard	T 10, 11	K		
Ch	Church	E 10.1	km	Kilometre(s)	B 40
Chy, Chys	Chimney(s)	E 22	kn	Knot(s)	B 52, H 40-43
cm	Centimetre(s)	B 43	L		
Co	Coral	J 10, K 16	LANBY	Large Automatic Navigational Buoy	P 6, Q 26
† Consol	Consol Beacon	S 13	LASH	Lighter Aboard Ship	
Cy	Clay	J 3	Lat	Latitude	B 1
D			Ldg	Leading	P 20.3
DG	Degaussing	N25, Q54	LFI	Long-flashing	P 10.5
DGPS	Differential Global Positioning System	S51	Lndg	Landing for boats	F 17
Dia	Diaphone	R 11	LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas	
Dir	Direction light	P 30, 31	Long	Longitude	B 2
dm	Decimetre(s)	B 42	LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas	
Dn, Dns	Dolphin(s)	F 20	Lt, Lts	Light(s)	P 1
DW	Deep Water route	M 27, N 12.4	M		
dwt	Dead Weight Tonnage		m	Medium	J 31
DZ	Danger Zone	Q 50	m	Metre(s)	B 41, P 13
E			m	Minute(s) of time	B 50
E	East	B 10	M	Mud	J 2
ED	Existence Doubtful	I 1	M	International Nautical mile(s) (1852 m) or sea mile(s)	B 45, P 14
Explos	Explosive	R 10	man	Manually activated	P 56, R 2
exting	Extinguished	P 55	min	Minute(s) of time	B 50
F			Mk	Mark	Q 101
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device		mm	Millimetre(s)	B 44
f	Fine	J 30	Mo	Morse Code	P 10.9, R 20
F	Fixed	P 10.1	Mon	Monument	E 24
FFI	Fixed and Flashing	P 10.10	MR	Marine Reserve	N 22.3
Fl	Flashing	P 10.4	MRCC	Maritime Rescue & Coordination Centre	
Fla	Flare stack	L 11			
fm, fms	Fathom(s)	B 48			
Fog Det Lt	Fog detector light	P 62			
FPSO	Floating Production, Storage and Offloading	L 17			

International Abbreviations (continued)

N			S		
N	North	B 9	so	Soft	J 35
NE	North-east	B 13	Sp	(Church) spire	E 10.3
No	Number	N 12.2	SPM	Single Point Mooring	L 12
NT	Net Tonnage		SS	Signal station	T 20-36
NW	North-west	B 15	St	Stones	J 5
O			SW	South-west	B 16
Obscd	Obscured	P 43	sy	Sticky	J 34
Obstr	Obstruction	K 40-43, L 43	sync	Synchronized	P66
Oc	Occulting	P 10.2	T		
occas	Occasional	P 50	t	Ton(s), Tonne(s) or tonnage	B 53, F 53
ODAS	Ocean Data Acquisition System	Q 58	temp	Temporary	P 54
Or	Orange	P 11.7, Q 3	Tr, Trs	Tower(s)	E 10.2, 20
P			U		
P	Pebbles	J 7	ULCC	Ultra Large Crude Carrier	G 188
PA	Position approximate	B 7	UQ	Ultra Quick	P 10.8
PD	Position doubtful	B 8	UTC	Universal Time Co-ordinated	
priv	Private	P 65, Q 70	UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator	
† Prod Well	Submerged production well	L 20	V		
PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Area	N 22.4	v	Volcanic	J 37
Pyl	Pylon	D 26	V-AIS	Virtual AIS	S 18
Q			vert	Violet	P 11.5
Q	Quick	P 10.6	Vi	Very Large Crude Carrier	G 187
R			VLCC	Very Quick	P 10.7
† R	Coast radio stations QTG service	S 15	VQ	Vessel Traffic Service	
R	Red	P 11.2, Q 3	VTS		
R	Rock	J 9, K 15	W		
Ra	Radar	M 31, 32, S 1	W	West	B 12
Racon	Radar transponder beacon	S 3.1-3.6	W	White	P 11.1, Q 130.5
† RC	Circular marine radiobeacon	S 10	Wd	Weed	J 13.1
† RD	Directional radiobeacon	S 11	Well	Wellhead	L 21
Ref	Refuge	Q 124, T 14	WGS	World Geodetic System	S 50
Rep	Reported, but not confirmed	I 3.1	Whis	Whistle	R 15
RG	Radio direction-finding station	S 14	Wk; Wks	Wreck(s)	K 20-30
RoRo	Roll-on, Roll-off Ferry (RoRo Terminal)	F 50	Y		
Ru, ru	Ruin, ruined	D 8, E 25.2, F 33	Y	Amber	P 11.8
† RW	Rotating-pattern radiobeacon	S 12	Y	Orange	P 11.7
S			Y	Yellow	P 11.6, Q 3
S	Sand	J 1			
s	Second(s) of time	B 51, P 12			
S	South	B 11			
SALM	Single Anchor Leg Mooring	L 12			
SBM	Single Buoy Mooring	L 16			
SD	Sounding doubtful	I 2			
SE	South-east	B 14			
sec	Second(s) of time	B 51			
sf	Stiff	J 36			
Sg	Seagrass	J13.3			
Sh	Shells (skeletal remains)	J 11			
Si	Silt	J 4			
Sig	Signal	T 25.2			
SMT	Seamount				

† abbreviation is obsolescent on charts