
**Ships and marine technology —
Terms, abbreviations, graphical
symbols and concepts on navigation**

*Navires et technologie maritime — Termes, abréviations, symboles
graphiques et concepts relatifs à la navigation*



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 8, *Ships and marine technology*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Navigation and ship operations*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 19018:2004), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- [Clause 2](#): updated referenced documents: ISO 31 deleted (its current revision, ISO 80000-3:2019, does no longer mention the nautical mile, knot, degree and minute), and changed from IEC 60872 and IEC 60936 to related original IMO resolutions;
- added [Clause 3](#), “Terms and definitions”, and subsequent clauses renumbered;
- items 4.1.1 to 4.1.3: referenced document changed from “ISO 31-1 and/or Chart INT 1” to “Chart INT” only, as applicable;
- items [6.1](#) and 6.1.1: abbreviation of “course” changed from “CSE” to “CRS”, and the second sentence of the explanation of [6.1](#) deleted (harmonized with that in radar navigation; IEC 62288 and/or IEC 62388);
- items 6.1.1 to 6.1.15 and 7.1 to 7.5: updated “Definition, remarks” based on IMO Resolution MSC. 192 (79) (harmonized with abbreviation and definition in IEC 62288 and/or IEC 62388);
- items 6.1.1, 6.1.2 and 6.1.4: added 6.1.1 “course”, 6.1.2 “heading” and 6.1.4 “course to steer” (harmonized with abbreviation and definition in IEC 62288 and/or IEC 62388);
- items 7.1 to 7.5: changed the “Definition, remarks”, based on IMO Resolution MSC, 192[79];
- deleted former Clause 15, “Radar navigation”, and former Clause 16, “LORAN-C”; and former Clause 17 renumbered as new [Clause 16](#);

- new [Clause 16](#) (former Clause 17): title changed from “Global Positioning System (GPS)” to “Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)”;
- Bibliography: added “[4] IEC 62288:2014”, “[5] IEC 62388:2013”, “[6] IMO Resolution MSC. 191(79)” and “[7] IMO Resolution MSC. 192(79)”.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Ships and marine technology — Terms, abbreviations, graphical symbols and concepts on navigation

1 Scope

This document provides terms, abbreviations and graphical symbols for use in maritime navigation on board ships. Symbols for use in mathematical formulae are also given, as applicable.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

Terms, abbreviation and symbols used in navigation are given in [Clauses 4](#) to [16](#). Abbreviations can prove useful, but they should not be used in mathematical formulae.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

navigation

process of finding the position of a craft or vehicle, and of planning, recording and controlling its movement from one place to another

4 Special units in maritime navigation

Item No.	Name of the unit	International symbol	Definition, conversion factors and remarks
4.1 Unit of length			
4.1.1	nautical mile	NM in charts: M ^a	1 NM = 1 852 m. The nautical mile is not an SI-unit. This definition was adopted by the First International Hydrographic Conference in 1929.
4.1.2	cable, cable length	cbl	One-tenth of a nautical mile. The cable is not an SI unit.
^a Symbol M is to be used in Charts according to the “Chart Specifications of the IHO” which came into force at the XIIth International Hydrographic Conference 1982 in Monaco.			