Admiralty Nautical Charts

The UKHO produces a range of nautical charts tailored to the needs of mariners to ensure safe navigation in the open ocean, coastal passages and port approaches, and enable secure berthing in harbours. Large scale charts are published covering harbours, anchorages and for passing close to navigational hazards. Medium scale charts are published for coastal navigation. Small scale charts are produced for offshore navigation and passage planning.

Chart detail is governed by the scale of the chart and the requirements of the chart user. The level of detail will generally be reduced on smaller scale charts. Mariners should always use nautical charts of the largest appropriate scale. In particularly busy seaways, namely the English Channel, Southern North Sea, Gulf of Suez, Malacca and Singapore Straits, our main chart series is supplemented by Mariners’ Routeing Guides showing route planning information and all necessary regulations appropriate to that area of navigation.

Standard Nautical Charts form the core of the range and are printed on high quality durable paper. From the time they are first published, they are kept up to date by Weekly Notices to Mariners (see page 149), and supplied corrected to the point of sale.

Standard Nautical Charts cover the world and are listed in sections A to X.

The Admiralty Raster Chart Service (ARCS) offers the mariner an exact digital reproduction of the Admiralty paper chart for use within electronic navigational systems (see pages 9-10). Charts are supplied on regional CD-ROMs and are accessed via electronic permit keys.

All charts are supplied up to date at the point of sale and may be updated weekly. Additional charts can be added at any time by contacting your distributor (see pages 4-8).

ARCS charts are available for most Standard Nautical Charts as indicated by ✔ against the chart listings in sections A – X.