

UKHO Warns of Counterfeit Charts

The UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) has issued a warning regarding counterfeit charts and other UKHO publications it has seen in circulation. The counterfeit documents do not satisfy SOLAS carriage requirements, and having counterfeit documents on board may lead to further legal complications in many countries where the carriage of counterfeit items is against the law.

In addition, since the counterfeit charts and publications have not been subjected to thorough checks, they cannot be trusted to be used for navigational purposes and could potentially lead to navigation errors causing an incident.

According to UKHO, official Admiralty charts bear the Admiralty 'Flying A' watermark within the paper and will carry a 'thumb label' strip on the reverse with the Admiralty logo, chart number, geographical area, barcode and date. Suspect charts and publications can also be identified by comparing them against official Admiralty versions, where variations may be spotted in the look, feel and weight of the product and the colour tone and strength of the ink. The folds on charts and the height and binding quality of publications can also provide a good indicator of whether a product is official or counterfeit.

The UKHO has produced a short [guide to help distinguish between counterfeit publications](#) and official UKHO products.

Any suspicious charts or publications should be reported direct to UKHO by emailingcustomerservices@ukho.gov.uk.