

**Circular 130 / 2016**

**To: Vessel Managers, Masters, Officers, Deputy Registrars, Surveyors and Other Interested Parties**

**Subject: UKHO warns of dangers posed by counterfeit ADMIRALTY products**

**Date: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

### **Summary**

The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) has observed an increase in the number of counterfeit versions of ADMIRALTY charts and publications in circulation and is re-issuing a warning over the dangers they pose to the safety of vessels, crew and cargo.

These counterfeit items have not been assessed by UKHO experts, who cross check and quality assure ADMIRALTY Maritime Products & Services to ensure mariners receive up-to-date and accurate information. Information contained within counterfeit products has also not been issued officially by or on the authority of a Government, authorised Hydrographic Office or other relevant Government institution and does not satisfy the carriage requirements of the International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). For these reasons, counterfeit charts and publications can significantly increase safety risks posed to vessels, crew and cargo when used for navigation.

The carriage of counterfeit charts and publications may also fail to satisfy (and may be contrary to) the laws of Flag State Authorities and Port State Control. Furthermore, carriage of counterfeit documents is against the law in all countries that have signed the Berne Convention, which includes the vast majority of countries. In those countries the authorities have the power to seize counterfeit documents.

To support mariners and reduce risks posed by counterfeit ADMIRALTY products, the UKHO has taken a number of preventative measures. These measures, including a new watermark on paper charts, have been outlined in the 'Guide to Identifying Counterfeit ADMIRALTY Products'. Recently updated, the guide contains visual examples and explanations to help users and inspectors to distinguish official ADMIRALTY charts and publications from counterfeit versions. You can find the full document attached below.

Anyone with suspicions about the authenticity of their ADMIRALTY charts and publications should contact the UKHO by emailing [customerservices@ukho.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@ukho.gov.uk).

**For further enquiries, please contact the Technical Department at [df@maritimecookislands.com](mailto:df@maritimecookislands.com)**

Please ensure this has been forwarded to interested parties.

# A Guide to Identifying Counterfeit ADMIRALTY Products

March 2016

We are asking users of ADMIRALTY Maritime Products & Services to be aware of counterfeit products that are currently in circulation. These products have not been issued officially by or on the authority of a Government, authorised Hydrographic Office or other relevant Government institution and do not satisfy the carriage requirements of the International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (see Chapter V, Regulations 2.2 and 19.2.1.4 of the Convention). Furthermore, these counterfeit ADMIRALTY products have not undergone the rigorous checking procedures which take place for official versions; posing a significant safety risk to vessels, crews and cargo.

This simple guide has been provided to help you identify genuine ADMIRALTY products and reduce the risk of counterfeits being used for navigation. If you do find a counterfeit product, please inform the UKHO by contacting our customer services team. Details of where and when the product was purchased, photographs and ideally the product itself should be provided to help us identify the source.

## Publications

### Certificates of authenticity

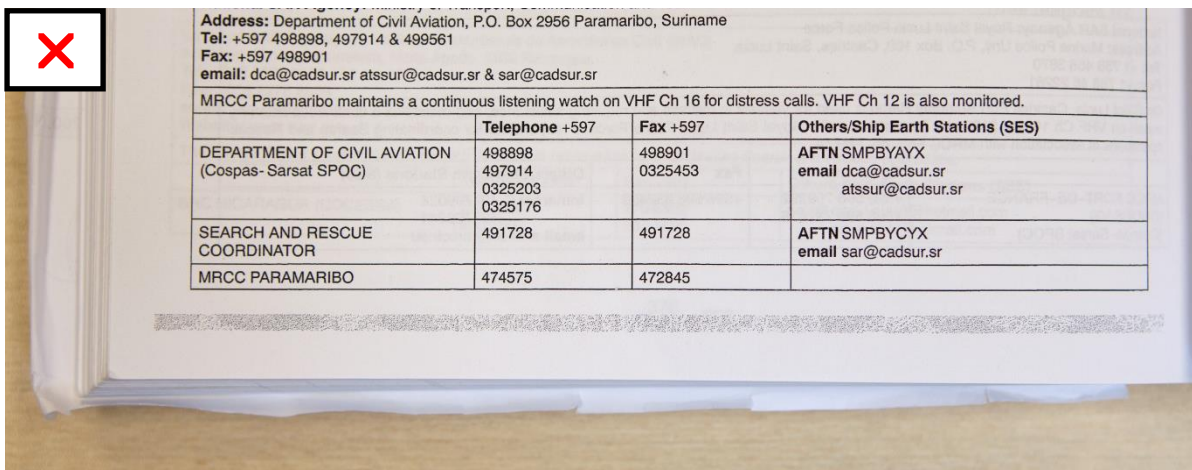
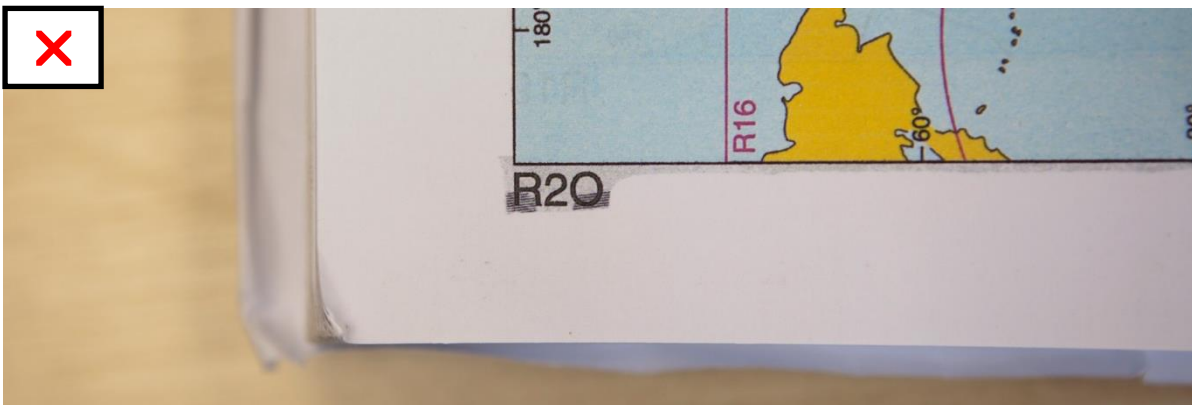
Publications published since **October 2014** include a certificate of authenticity. This can be found inside the rear cover of the publication or within the opening pages. The certificate should be **stamped and dated by the issuing Chart Agent** to certify it is a genuine ADMIRALTY product.



**UKHO strip included within publications published after October 2014**

Publications published since **October 2014** include a grey graphic showing the UKHO crest across random pages. If photocopied, the words **'ILLEGAL COPY'** will be visible. Counterfeiters have been known to try and overcome this by removing the graphic completely, resulting in pages not being numbered.

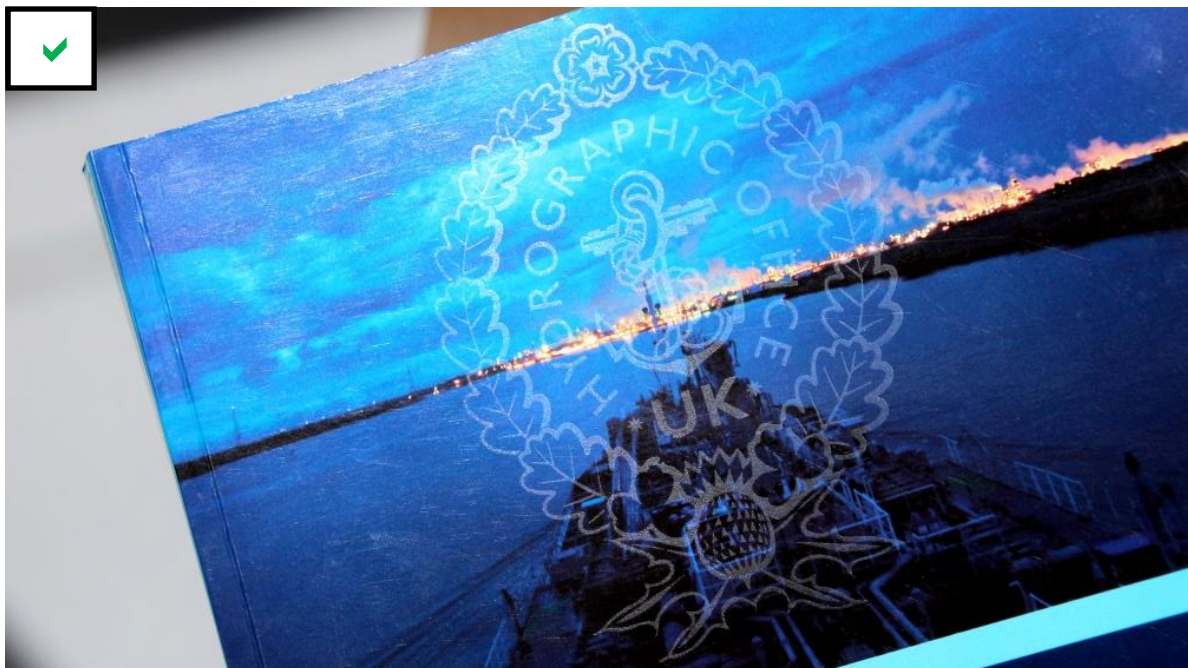
They may also remove the entire graphic except that part that covers the page number. In this instance some of the graphic can still be seen, resulting in the page number having a grey background rather than plain white.





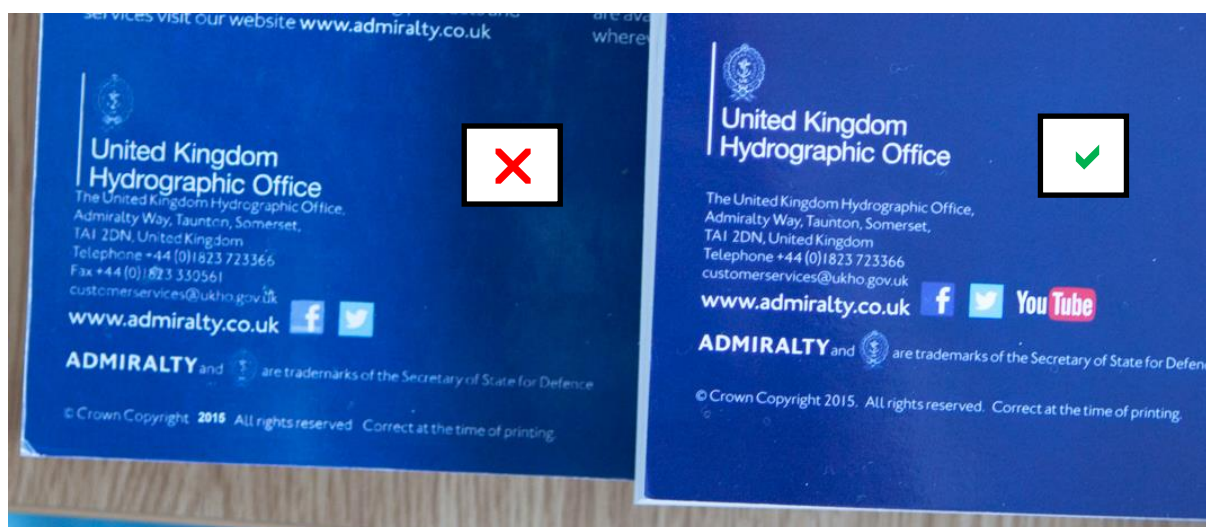
**UKHO crest included within publications published after 2014**

All ADMIRALTY publications published since **October 2014** have a transparent, but visible, **UKHO crest** overlaid on the front cover.

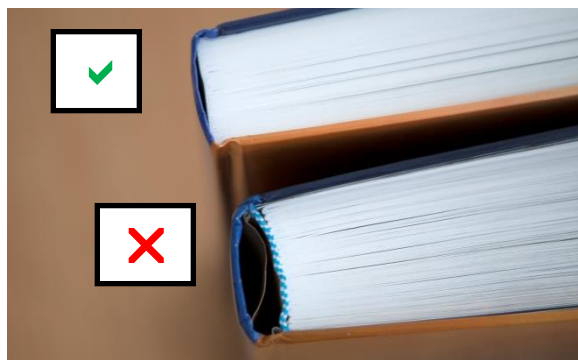


**Inconsistent printing and finishing standards**

The quality of the print can be inspected. If a book has uneven pages, inconsistent margins, variable ink strength or unfamiliar paper it is almost certainly counterfeit. An example of inconsistent printing standards can be **seen below**.



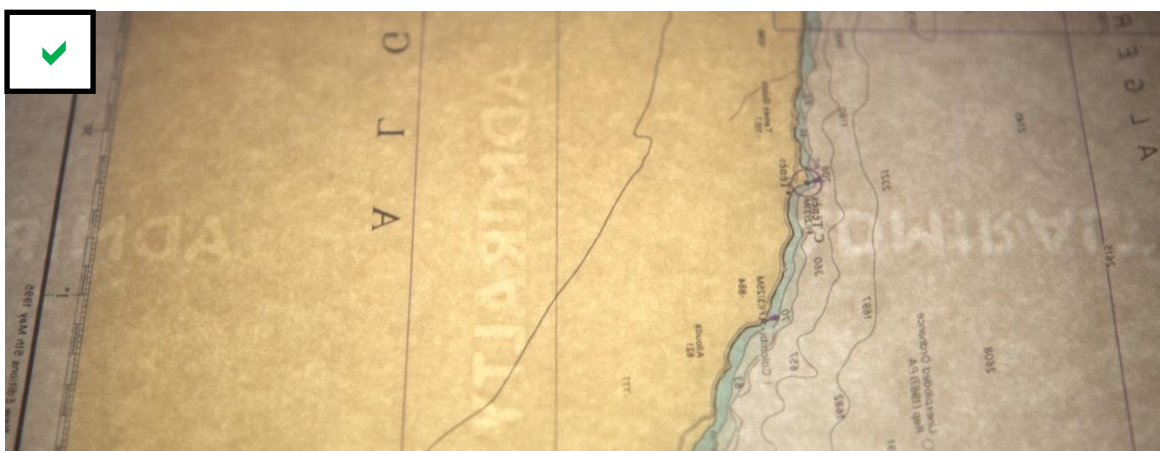
The binding can also be checked. Genuine publications are tightly bound whereas counterfeit publications may have a weak spine.



## Charts

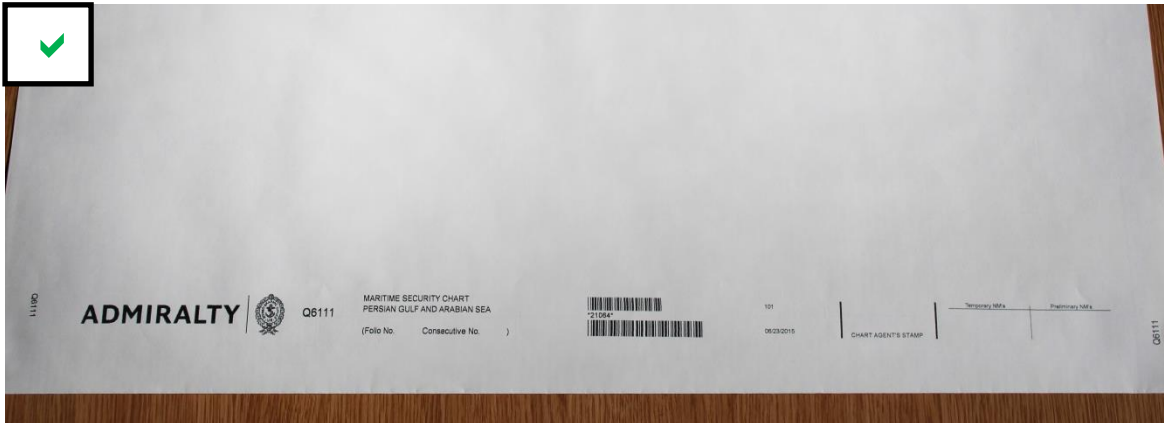
### ADMIRALTY Charts contain branded watermarks

Genuine charts bear the ADMIRALTY "Flying A" watermark or the new 'ADMIRALTY' watermark within the paper. **This watermark can be seen by holding the chart up to the light.** Once you have identified the watermark on official ADMIRALTY charts, this stock can be compared to any suspicious charts.



**Every paper chart contains a thumb label**

Every ADMIRALTY chart carries a 'thumb label' strip on the reverse of the chart that contains the **ADMIRALTY logo**, the **chart number**, the **geographic area featured**, a **barcode** and **date**. Your ADMIRALTY Chart Agent should have also stamped the chart.



**Inconsistent use of colours and paper weights**

The 'look and feel' of a suspicious chart can be compared to a genuine ADMIRALTY chart. If the ink on a chart looks to be a different **colour tone, weight or feel** then it is probably a counterfeit copy (**see example below**).

