

International Dictionary of Marine Aids to Navigation (Dictionary)

Dictionary Management

1 BACKGROUND

The original paper version of the Dictionary was maintained by editors such as Peter Kent. In 2009 an on-line Wiki Dictionary was released.

2 DICTIONARY REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Purpose and scope

The International Dictionary of Marine Aids to Navigation (Dictionary) provides a definitive definition of terms used in IALA documents and a list of acronyms commonly used in IALA. The Dictionary is a valuable resource available to all. It is available without restriction on the internet. The Dictionary includes definitions of terms and acronyms as deemed appropriate by the DWG.

2.2 Shared terms

There are many terms used commonly in IALA documents that originate from other organisations. If these are replicated in the IALA Dictionary, there is a risk that updates by the “parent” organisation will not be updated in the IALA Dictionary. Such definitions should be provided as links via the IALA Dictionary rather than replicating the definition.

2.3 Languages of the IALA Dictionary

IALA policy is that IALA documentation should be provided in the three major languages English, French and Spanish. This will be applied to the Dictionary also. Where conflict arises regarding definitions in multiple languages, the English version will be accepted as the definitive definition.

3 DICTIONARY WORKING GROUP (DWG)

The Dictionary is managed by a Dictionary Working Group reporting to the Policy Advisory Panel (PAP) and taking its authority from the PAP. While striving for consensus, decisions will be by majority of the DWG members

At its 62nd session, the IALA Council delegated approval authority of new terms and definitions and revised definitions to the PAP Dictionary Working Group, with the exception of terms and definitions already approved by the Council as part of existing official IALA documents.

The membership of the DWG is the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the VTS, ARM, ENAV and ENG Technical Committees, Dean of the WWA, LAP Representative, Committee Secretaries, Technical Operations Manager. The IALA Technical Operations Manager will chair the DWG.

Support with administration will be provided by the Secretariat Technical Operations Manager and the ENG Committee Secretary. Editing of the Dictionary will be carried out by the IALA Secretariat.

The Dictionary Working Group (DWG) has the responsibility to:

- Maintain the Dictionary of Marine Aids to Navigation (Dictionary) in good order to ensure that the terms are up to date and accurate in English, French and Spanish;
- Approve the addition, amendment or removal of Dictionary terms and acronyms following scrutiny for accuracy;

- Promote the use of the Dictionary in IALA Committees and IALA Membership and in IALA documentation;
- Delete obsolete or non-relevant entries;
- Review the entries over time to provide an on-going update.

4 DICTIONARY AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

The following procedure for developing, maintaining and promoting the IALA Dictionary is used:

- Proposals for updating or adding Dictionary term definitions and acronyms will be submitted to the DWG using a template form which will be an input paper to all Committee meetings;
- The proposal for addition or amendment is assessed and approved by the DWG;
- The Secretariat maintains a list of proposed and approved changes/ additions;
- The IALA Dictionary Working Group (DWG) will meet at half year intervals by GoToMeeting after each round of Committee meetings to review / approve Dictionary changes;
- The IALA Secretariat Web Master will do actual edits of Dictionary;
- Removed terms will be relocated into a category “Historical Terms” rather than deleted;
- The basic structure of the 1970-1989 Dictionary will be retained and adjusted as required.

5 STRATEGY FOR MULTIPLE LANGUAGES DEFINITIONS

IALA policy is that IALA documentation should be provided in the three major languages English, French and Spanish. Where conflict arises regarding definitions in multiple languages, the English version will be accepted as the definitive definition.

A panel of volunteer translators for each language from each Committee will be used to provide translations of approved definitions. Where possible, translations of proposed definitions will be provided by the Committees when proposing new or amended definitions.
