

Modification of Symbols based on Results of Field Tests

The user equipment adopted for assessment of the field test at sea was a general-purpose personal computer in terms of hardware, in which an exclusive software developed for evaluation of the test processes and results was additionally installed. Presentation ability of such equipment depends on the size and resolution of a display panel. Since the letter “Virtual AIS” added to the symbols of virtual AtoN was managed to be legible on the panel of a 14-inch and a “XGA; 1024 x 768 dots”, the equipment could provide the symbols at a size of approx. 2-cm on the screen.

As a result of this phenomenon, an unexpected scene occurred on the display that the symbol of virtual AtoN appeared on top of an AIS symbol of a ship in navigation nearby - that is, an undesirable situation in which symbols of virtual AtoN will prevent ship’s AIS symbols from coming in view on a screen.

It is therefore considered that, in future, discussions on standardization of symbols and designing of display unit should be carried on taking account of the following aspects.

1. Adoption of Simplified Symbols

In order to make the size of AtoN AIS symbols smaller on a display, it is necessary to consider use of simplified symbols in compliance with the symbology adopted for ECDIS.

As a proposal, draft simplified symbols are shown in Fig. 4-21 for buoys and Fig. 4-22 for unlighted beacons.



Fig. 4-21: (draft) Simplified symbol of buoys

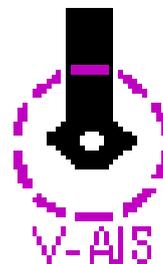


Fig. 4-22: (draft) Simplified symbol of unlighted beacons

2. Design of User Equipment

Since quality of a displayed virtual AtoN AIS symbol is subject to the operational capability of user equipment, it is necessary for the equipment to have an ability to control the symbol size according to the scale of display on a screen.