

# A guide to identifying counterfeit ADMIRALTY products

1 June 2023

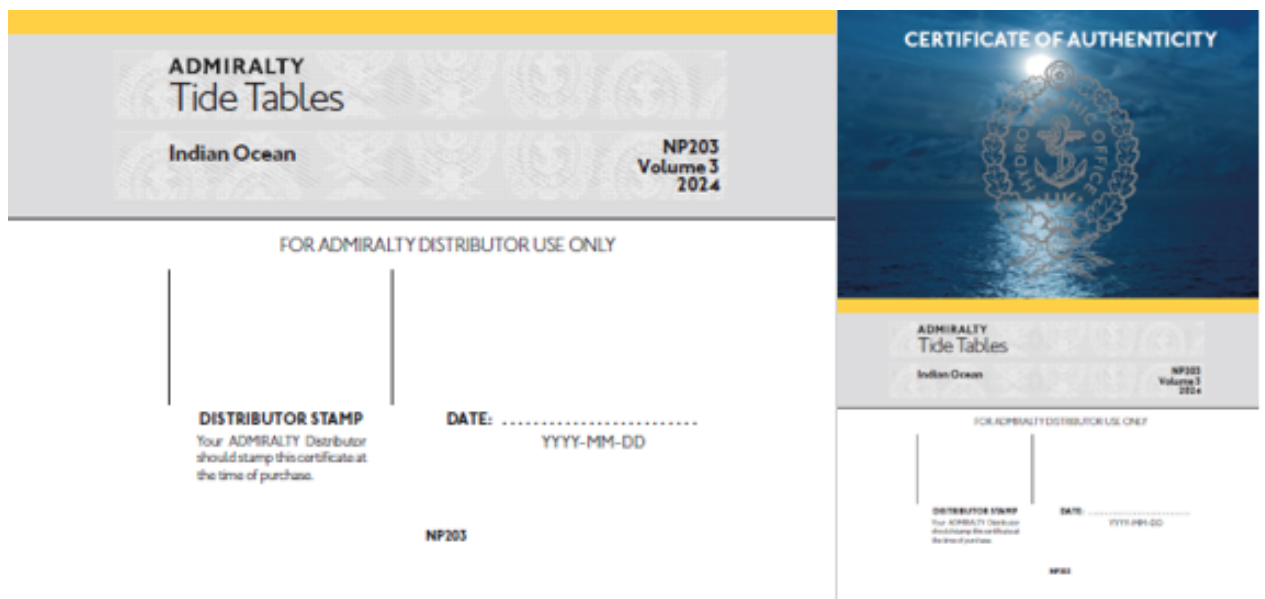
We are asking users of ADMIRALTY products and services to be aware of counterfeit charts and publications that are currently in circulation. These products have not been issued officially by or on the authority of a Government, authorised Hydrographic Office or other relevant Government institution and 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 UK Hydrographic Office (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 ADMIRALTY Distributor** to certify it is a genuine ADMIRALTY product.



**UK Hydrographic  
Office**

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TA1 2DN, United Kingdom

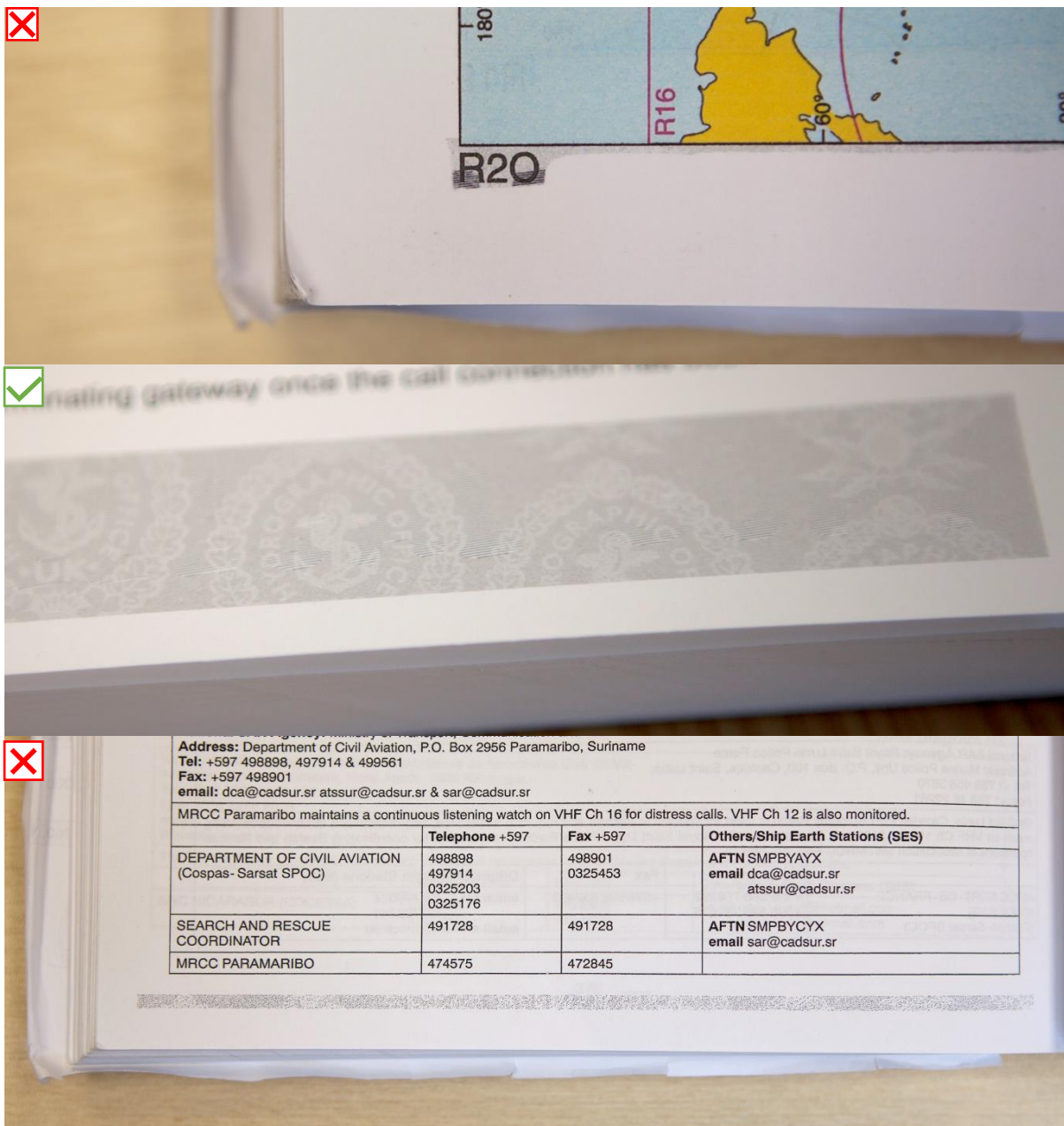
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## UKHO strip included within publications published after October 2014

Publications published since **October 2014** include a grey graphic showing the UKHO crest across all internal pages. If copied, 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.



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**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**.



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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.



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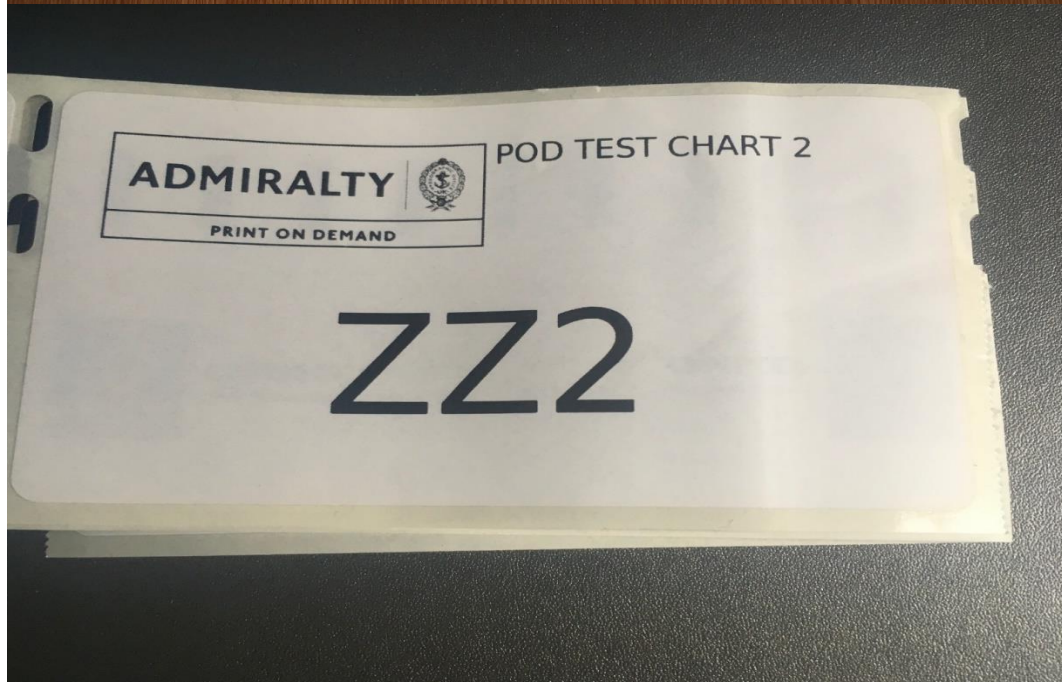
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ADMIRALTY paper charts can be printed through either ADMIRALTY's own printers or by ADMIRALTY distributors using the Print On Demand (POD) service. There will be some differences in the layout of the chart depending on which method has been used, however all charts will be on ADMIRALTY watermarked paper and the chart content will be the same.

Users of the Print on Demand services are required to print charts to the same rigorous quality standards as an ADMIRALTY printed chart.

## Every paper chart contains a thumb label or a POD label

Either 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**. POD charts will have a label stuck to the reverse of the chart containing the chart number and name. Your ADMIRALTY Distributor should have also stamped the chart.



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## POD charts will have a “strapline” on the chart face edge

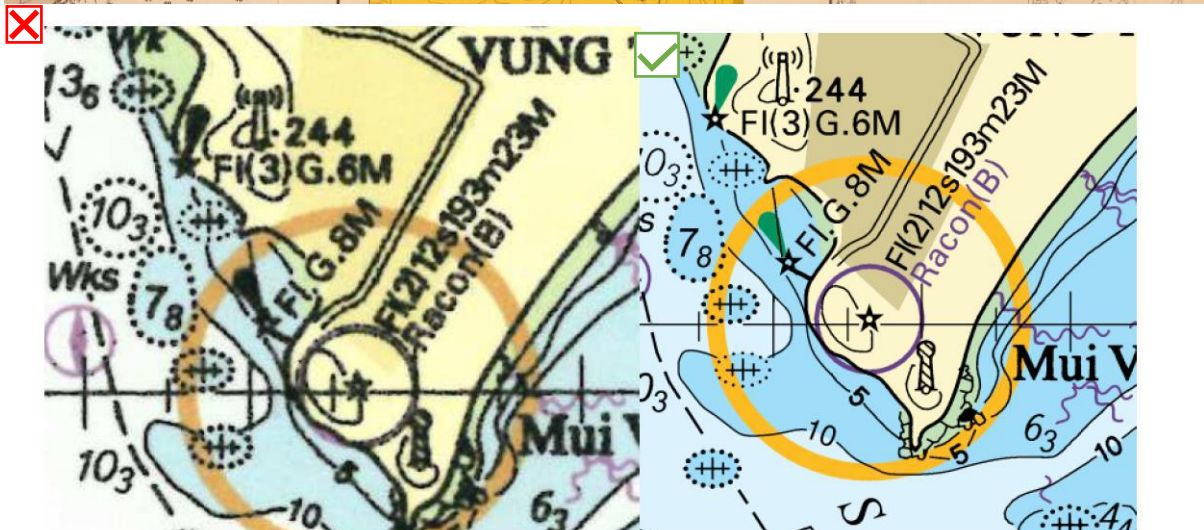
The strapline will contain the name of the distributor who printed the chart, the printer id number, starting with the letter “P” and the date and time printed.



Printed by 5312 (P346) - Commercial Process FOC Account on 12 Aug 2020 12:46 UTC on ADMIRALTY Chart Paper.

## 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**).



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## Spacing within notes

Notes on the chart will have a consistent format on genuine ADMIRALTY charts.

 **FISHING STAKES**  
Fishing stakes exist in the area covered by this chart, particularly within the 5 metre depth contour. Their positions may change frequently.

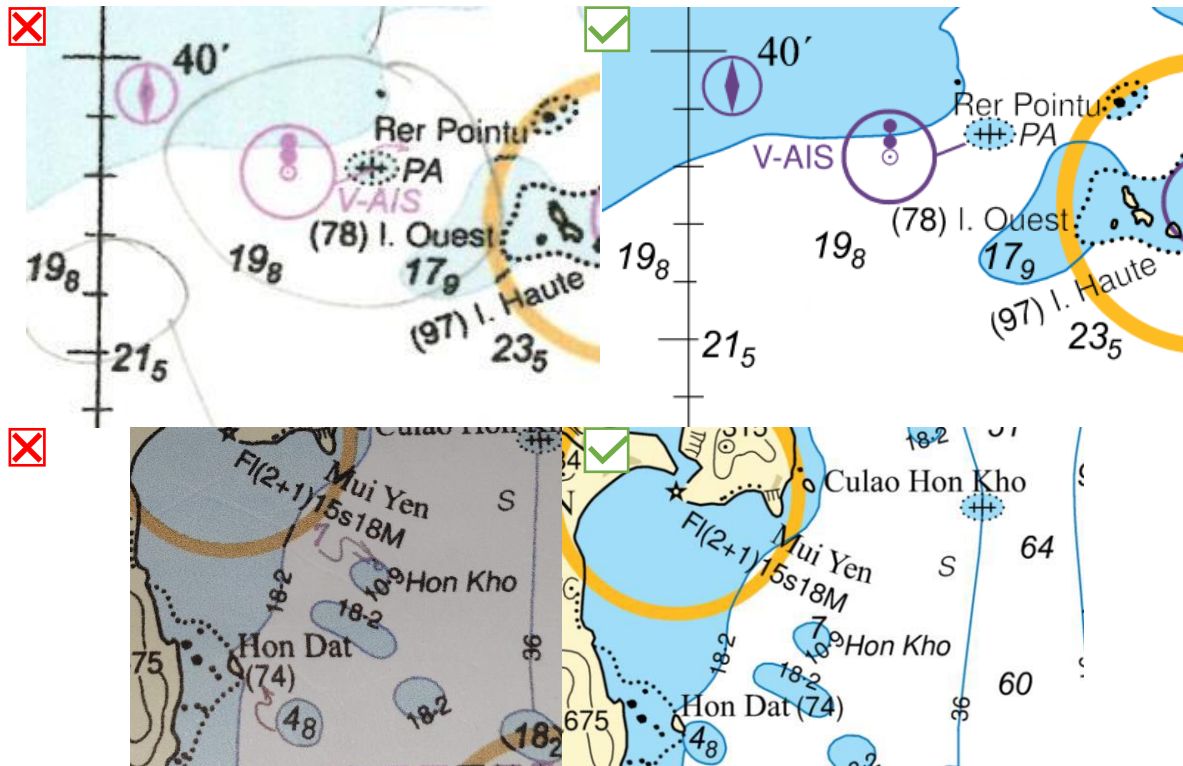
 **IALA MARITIME BUOYAGE (REGION A)**  
Some buoys and beacons in the area of this chart may not conform to the IALA system.

 **FISHING STAKES**  
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Some buoys and beacons in the area of this chart may not conform to the IALA system.

## Further Examples

The following images show examples from counterfeited charts as a guide to the types of differences seen.



The above line work is not sharp in the counterfeit example and additional hand drawn marks are shown for features changed by NM.



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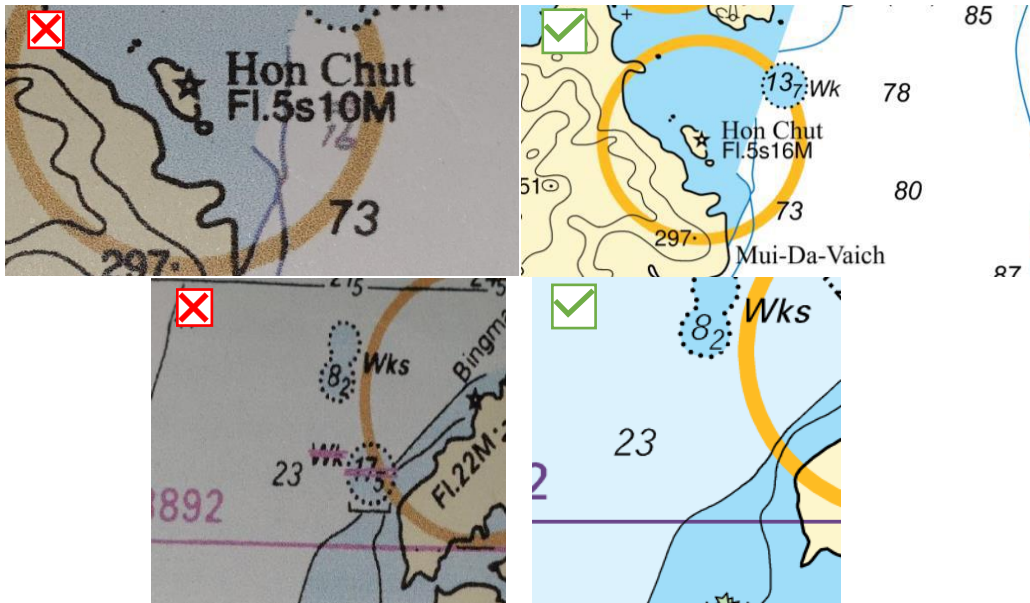
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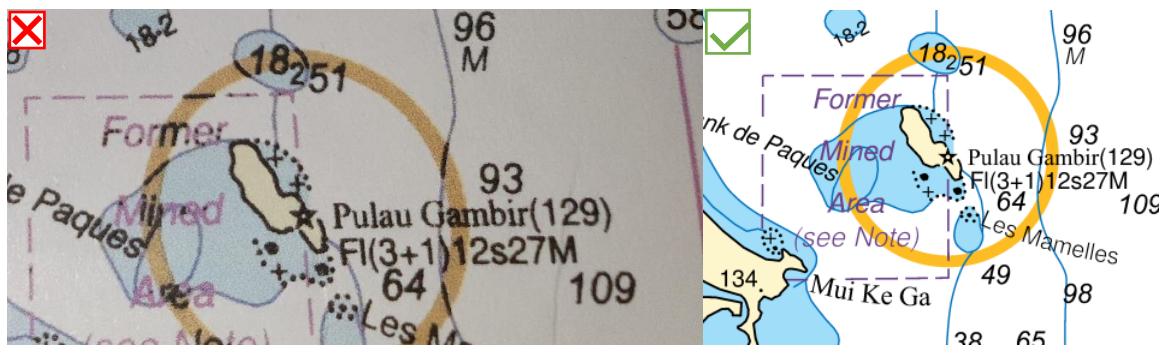
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Deleted features have been struck out above in the counterfeit copy



There are colour inaccuracies in the counterfeit, with colours appearing as black in the counterfeit copy above.



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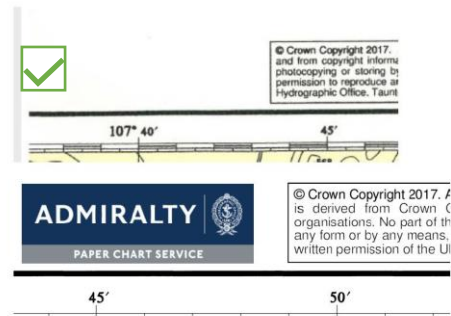
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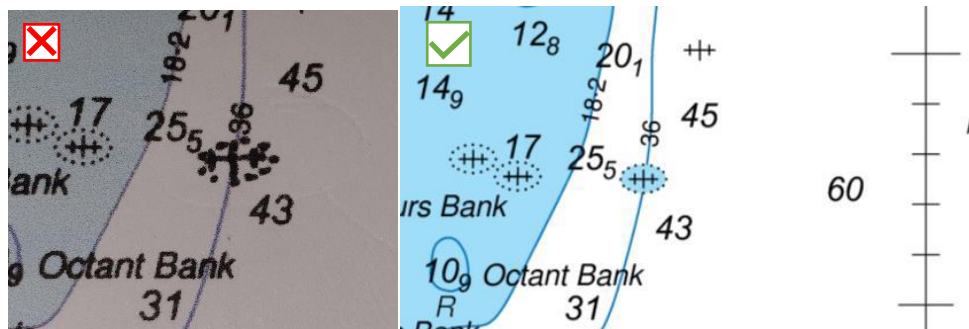


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Colour and darkness discrepancies for the ADMIRALTY Paper Chart Service logo are found on counterfeits.



Counterfeit copy contains hand drawn features (a newly printed chart will not have hand drawn features and whilst Distributors will manually update stock charts, POD charts are not updated before sale – they are printed to order).



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