AIS Aids to Navigation (AIS AtoN)

An AIS AtoN is a digital aid to navigation promulgated by an authorised service provider using AIS Message 21 "Aids to navigation report" that is portrayed on devices or systems such as ECDIS, radar or Integrated Navigation System.

An AIS AtoN can either be Physical or Virtual:

Physical AIS AtoN

A Physical AIS AtoN represents an AtoN that physically exists. A Physical AIS AtoN is not normally encoded in an ENC, however if encoded the information can be found through the pick report when querying the aid to navigation.

Virtual AIS AtoN

A Virtual AIS AtoN represents an AtoN that does not physically exist and is therefore only visible on display systems. Applications of Virtual AIS AtoN include the timely marking of new wrecks, floating debris, uncharted hazards, and virtual shipping lanes or in circumstances where a physical AtoN cannot be established.

Virtual AIS AtoN are only shown in an ENC, where it is known that the Virtual AtoN is permanent, or deployed for a specific fixed period; they are easily identified by the symbols shown in the table below.

Please note that in addition to the ENC symbols shown below, other symbols (normally in the shape of a diamond) may exist for AIS AtoN in ECDIS when within broadcast range however as these are not included in the ENC data they have not been included in this quick guide.

Third Edition

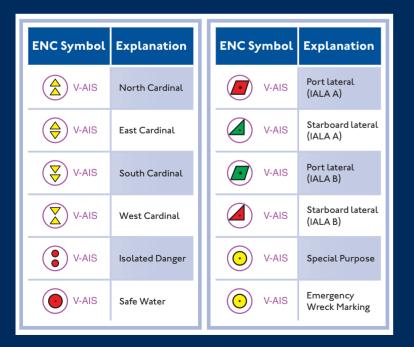
Hydrographic Office

Quick Guide to ENC Symbols

ADMIRALTY Vector Chart Service



Quick Guide to Virtual AIS AtoN Symbols



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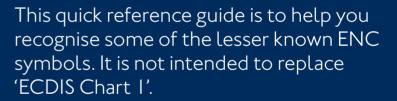
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The ENC Symbols shown are in daytime colours. They may be shown in different colours/shades in other palettes.

For further guidance on ENC Symbols see NP5012-ADMIRALTY Guide to ENC Symbols used in ECDIS.

ENC Symbol	Explanation	Additional Information	5011 Ref	ENC Symbol		Explanati
⊗	Generic isolated danger symbol – with les depth than user-selected safety contour where the depth is unknown		к	i		Indicates th information file is availa
(3_2)	Sounding of low accuracy	Equates to sounding of	12	>>>>	\rightarrow	Non-tidal o
32		doubtful depth	114		\rightarrow	Spring tide
* * * * * *	6 starsA IAll significant seafloor feat5 starsA2All significant seafloor feat	ures detected; high accuracy survey	detected; high accuracy survey to navigation are not expected but may		· 🖬	Light vesse
× * * * × × (* * *)	exist; medium accuracy sur	vey			$\Box \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow$	
✓ (★ ★) U		ected; low accuracy survey or passage s / be expected; poor quality data to be assessed	oundings	0	0 - 0	New Object New Object New Object
	Caution area where a specific caution not applies	access additional information	N27	Symbol setting on ECDIS		For details
		Refer to ECDIS Chart I for more examples		Simplified	Traditional	Lateral bea
	Dredged area deeper than safety contour Darker blue indicates water shoaler than safety contour	Refer to cursor enquiry for more information	120		\$	Lateral con - red/green applicable
				_		Lateral can
	Vertical lines indicate areas of charted dat significantly smaller scale than main displ				Â	Cardinal m south/west north show
— A — — B — — A — — B —	Indicates boundary between IALA A and B buoyage systems	See NP735		F	• •	Isolated da
	Isolated query indicates insufficient information to symbolise the feature	Query may appear alone at a point, on a line or in a defined	Q80 H40-	• •	i å	
	Query associated with symbol indicates absence of a mandatory attribute, such as	area. Further information	43 M27.2	•	Å	Safe water
	beacon shape, direction or orientation			• /	11	Special ma
	and official ENC data, marked by orange pecked line – pecks angled towards unoff vector data	way around on older ECDIS.		⊿ ⊡ ⊙	\$ 4 0	Special pur example; T
	Vector data	must be used for navigation			டீடீ	Buoy – mo

Symbol		Explanation	Additional Information	5011 Ref		
o		Indicates that an additional information note or picture file is available	The information, note or graphic can be found using cursor enquiry			
$\gg \rightarrow$		Non-tidal current direction		H42		
$_{\tau\tau \to}$		Spring tide – Ebb Flood		H41 H40		
₩ ↔		Light vessel/lightfloat		P6 Q30		
$\Box \land \Box$		Daymarks		Q82- 126		
••• •• •• •• ••		New Object – Point New Object – Line New Object – Area	New type of feature not yet known to ECDIS – further information available by cursor enquiry			
Symbol setting on ECDIS Simplified Traditional		For details of the IALA Maritime Buoyage System. Refer to NP 735				
	Ļ	Lateral beacons – red/green	IALA applicable system			
	\bigtriangleup	Lateral conical buoys - red/green, according to applicable IALA system	IALA applicable system	Q 130.1		
		Lateral can buoys – red/green	IALA applicable system	Q 130.1		
		Cardinal marks north/east/ south/west (Cardinal mark north shown for Traditional)		Q 130.3		
•	ij	Isolated danger marks		Q 130.4		
•	Å	Safe water buoy		Q 130.5		
•	11	Special marks	Shape/topmarks are optional – colour yellow	Q 130.6		
<u>.</u>	$\Diamond \Box \Diamond$	Special purpose buoys, for example; TSS lane markers	Shape/topmarks optional – colour yellow	Q 130.6		
	<i>டூ</i> டீ	Buoy – mooring		Q40		