

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(of Unesco)

COST-43 PROPOSAL ON ODAS IDENTIFICATION  
AND MARKINGS

Summary

This information document presents a proposal to revise the recommended system for ODAS identification and markings. The proposal was prepared by participants in Project 43 of the European Co-operation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST-43).

Although this document will serve as a general information document on the subject, it is also intended to be reviewed by the Thirteenth Session of the IOC Executive Council, under agenda item 5.1.

## INTRODUCTION

1. COST-43 is the abbreviation given to Project 43 of the European Co-operation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research. COST-43 is thus a regional project formed by a group of European countries, and is involved with real-time collection of oceanographic and meteorological data from various oceanic platforms including moored and drifting buoys.
2. Resolution XI-19 requested the Secretary to determine actions necessary to support the objectives of COST-43 and to report to the Executive Council on the need for action by the Commission.
3. The Annex to the information document contains a proposal from COST-43 to change the recommended system for ODAS identification and markings.
4. ODAS is an acronym for Ocean Data Acquisition System. ODAS represents all facets of ocean data acquisition including ships, platforms, telemetering and nontelemetering buoys, and satellites, used to collect oceanographic data at observing or ocean stations. Regulations and legal aspects of ODAS are co-ordinated by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) in co-operation with other international groups and bodies such as WMO, FAO, and IOC.

## DISCUSSION

5. After examining the ODAS procedures for identification and marking of moored and drifting buoys the participants in COST-43 have determined that these procedures, in particular the identification codes for the buoys are ambiguous for some of the COST-43 countries. On this basis they have prepared a proposal for the revision of these ODAS procedures.
6. The COST-43 proposal is attached hereto. The ODAS text is quoted and remains the same except for item 1.1.1 which is labeled "Revised Part", and the "Proposed list of ODAS Registry States, abbreviated form and allocation of identification number series".

## SUMMARY

7. The COST-43 proposal to change the identification codes for ODAS results simply from the present ODAS code's ambiguity when applied to COST-43 countries. The proposal, if accepted by IMCO, would assign a unique identification number and country abbreviation to all ODAS.

## 1. Identification and Marking

### 1.1 General

REVISED PART

1.1.1 Every ODAS COST-43 entered in an ODAS COST-43 register shall be assigned a unique identification number prefixed by the letters "ODAS".

- The identification number should be taken from the list of identification number series (Techn. Doc. No. 15) as proposed for the participating COST-43 countries.
- Each ODAS should keep its identification number throughout its lifetime. Consequently the identification number should not be altered if an ODAS is transferred to a new position. When an ODAS is taken out of the COST-43 registry the identification number is free for use on new ODAS.
- The name of the Registry State written in full.
- It is suggested (optional) to paint the national flag on the buoy hull.

1.1.2 Every ODAS shall display its identification number clearly on an exterior surface where it can best be seen, and in addition, if feasible, the name and address of its owner.

### 1.2 Surface penetrating ODAS COST-43

Surface penetrating ODAS COST-43 shall have their visible positions painted yellow. Drifting ODAS should carry an inscription in several languages stating that its purpose is to drift freely and that it should not be recovered by unauthorized persons.

## 2. Lights and signals

### 2.1 General

2.1.1 The lights and signals referred to hereunder shall be positioned in places where they can best be seen or heard.

2.1.2 A satisfactory radar response at a distance of at least two miles shall be ensured for an ODAS COST-43 which constitute a danger to shipping and safe navigation, and effort shall be made to increase this range where the size of the COST-43 allows.

### 2.2 Surface penetrating ODAS COST-43 other than bottom-bearing ODAS COST-43

2.2.1 Surface penetrating ODAS COST-43 of all types other than bottom-bearing ODAS COST-43 shall:

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- a) exhibit from sunset to sunrise and in the case of manned ODAS COST-43 also in conditions of poor visibility, a yellow light visible all round the horizon with, where technically practicable, a nominal range of at least 5 miles, exhibiting a group of 5 flashes every 20 seconds, the flash rate not to exceed 40 per minute.
- b) carry a sound signal where the installation thereof is technically practicable, of such a nature that it cannot be confused with neighbouring aids to navigation, nor with sound signals made in compliance with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.

2.3 Surface penetrating ODAS COST-43 which are bottom-bearing ODAS COST-43

- 2.3.1 Bottom-bearing, surface-penetrating ODAS COST-43 shall be marked and carry lights and sound signals in the same manner as "a structure in the sea", e.g. drilling platforms, as is customary in the area concerned.

2.4 Sub-surface ODAS COST-43

- 2.4.1 Sub-surface ODAS COST-43 of all types which due to the depth at which they are deployed, constitute a danger to shipping and safe navigation or fishing gear, shall when they are not escorted by an attending vessel capable of giving warning(s) of its presence to passing ships, be marked by a surface buoy exhibiting lights and complying with the requirements for sound signals in paragraph 2.2.1 above.

3. Modification of waiver

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The requirements of 1. and 2. may be modified or waived by the Registry State, subject, where relevant, to the concurrence of the State providing aids to navigation in the area concerned and at the risk of the operator, if such a waiver or modification does not result in the ODAS COST-43 becoming a danger to shipping and safe navigation.

Proposal for list of ODAS REGISTRY STATES  
Abbreviated form and allocation of identification number series

<u>Series of identification numbers:</u>	<u>Abbreviated form</u>	<u>Registry State</u>
001 - 050	BEL	BELGIUM
051 - 100	DAN	DENMARK
101 - 150	SUO	FINLAND
151 - 200	FRA	FRANCE
201 - 250	BRD	GERMANY
251 - 300	NLD	NETHERLANDS
301 - 350	ISL	ICELAND
351 - 400	IRE	IRELAND
401 - 450	ITA	ITALY
451 - 500	NOR	NORWAY
501 - 550	ESP	SPAIN
551 - 600	SVE	SWEDEN
601 - 650	POR	PORTUGAL
651 - 700	UKD	UNITED KINGDOM

Examples: ODAS-472-NOR

- ODAS serial No. 472                      Registry State Norway

ODAS-684-UKD

- ODAS serial No. 684                      Registry State United Kingdom