

# A Guide to Identifying Counterfeit ADMIRALTY Products

March 2016

We are asking users of ADMIRALTY Maritime Products & Services to be aware of counterfeit products 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 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

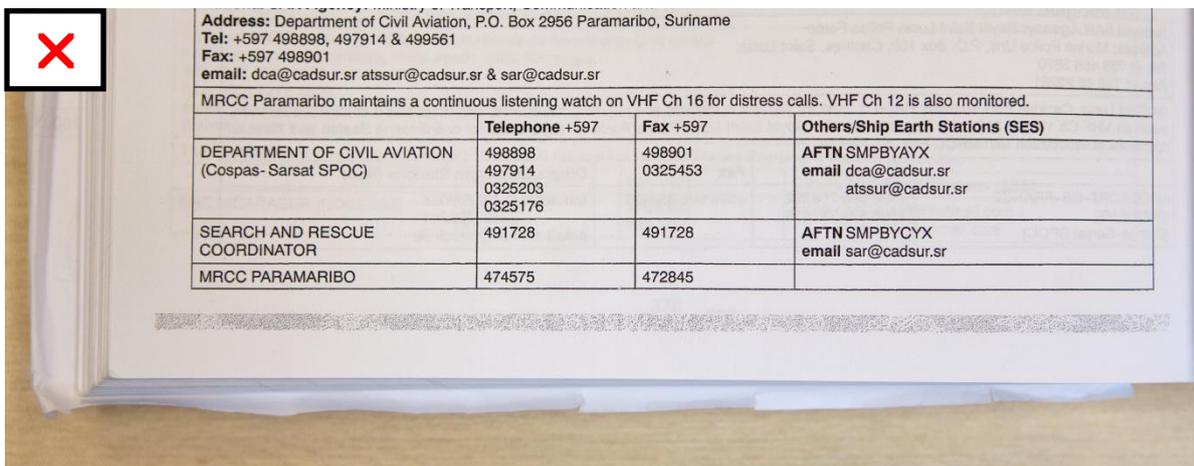
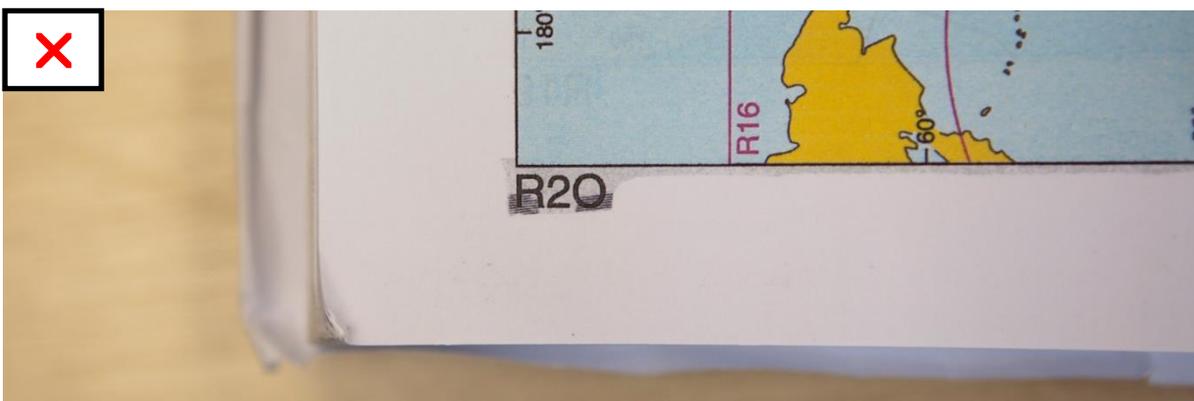
Publications published since **October 2014** include a certificate of authenticity. This can be found inside the rear cover of the publication or within the opening pages. The certificate should be **stamped and dated by the issuing Chart Agent** to certify it is a genuine ADMIRALTY product.



**UKHO strip included within publications published after October 2014**

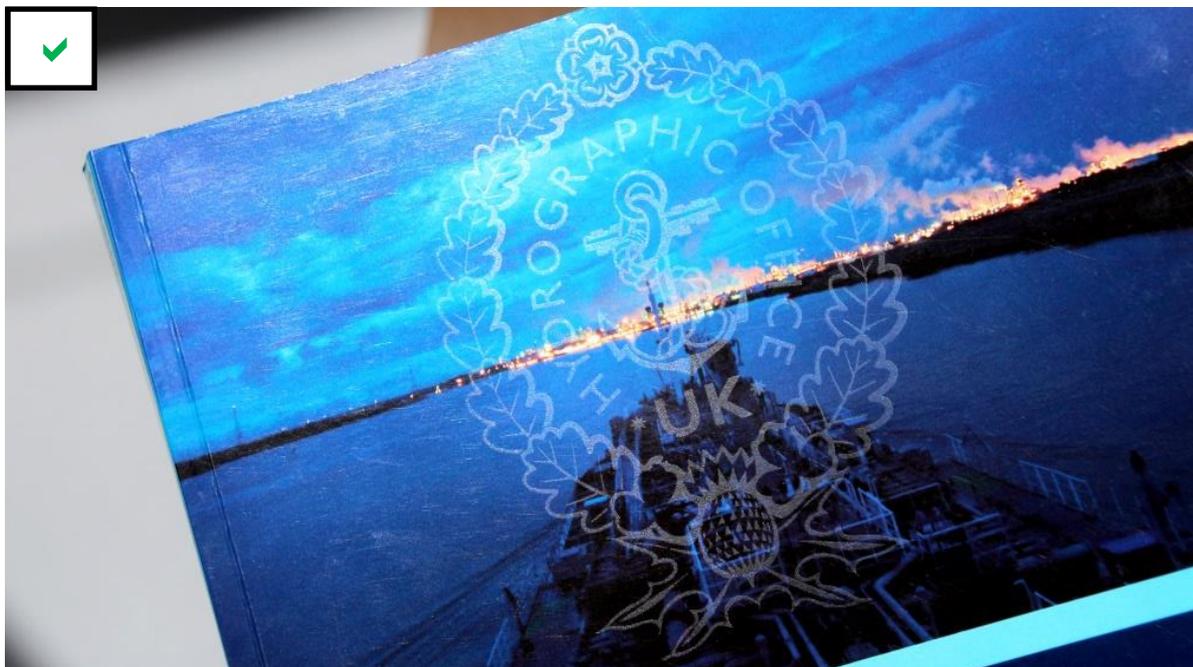
Publications published since **October 2014** include a grey graphic showing the UKHO crest across random pages. If photocopied, the words **'ILLEGAL COPY'** will be visible. Counterfeiters have been known to try and overcome this by removing the graphic completely, resulting in pages not being numbered.

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.



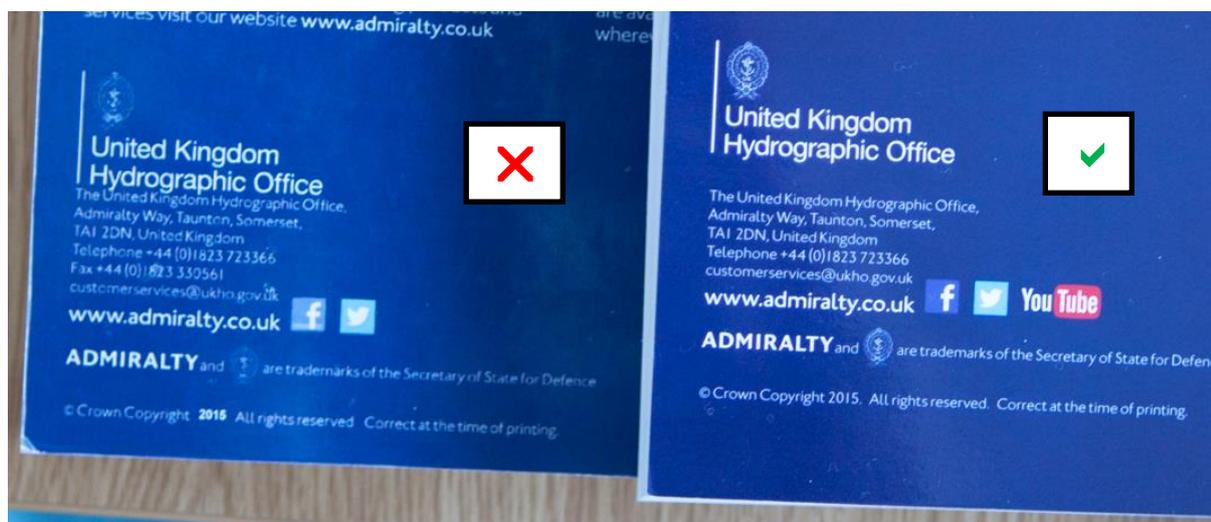
**UKHO crest included within publications published after 2014**

All ADMIRALTY publications published since **October 2014** have a transparent, but visible, **UKHO crest** overlaid on the front cover.

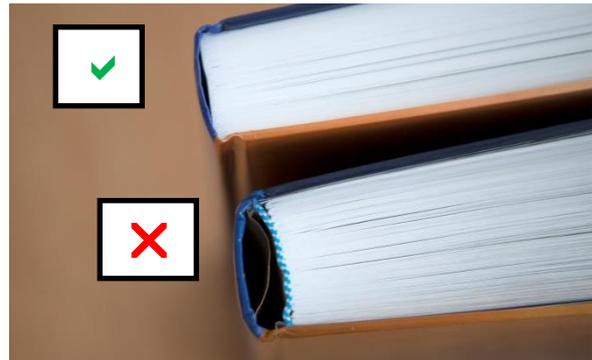


**Inconsistent printing and finishing standards**

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**.



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.



Every paper chart contains a thumb label

Every ADMIRALTY chart carries 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**. Your ADMIRALTY Chart Agent should have also stamped the chart.



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**).

