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What is the Admiralty Information Overlay?

The Admiralty Information Overlay is a digital dataset that is designed to be displayed over ENCs in ECDIS and other chart display systems to provide additional information to the navigator.

The Admiralty Information Overlay contains all Admiralty Temporary & Preliminary Notices to Mariners (T&P NMs) and provides additional preliminary information that is specific to ENCs, such as reported navigational hazards that have been incorporated on paper charts but have not yet been included in ENCs.

The Overlay gives seafarers an easy way to view the information they need, in addition to the standard chart, to navigate safely and compliantly. The Overlay makes passage planning simpler and safer by clearly showing where important Temporary or Preliminary changes may impact a voyage. It also gives seafarers the same consistent picture of the maritime environment on their ECDIS as they have always had with the Admiralty paper chart.

The Overlay includes all Admiralty T&P NMs in force worldwide and additional information that relates specifically to ENCs, published as ENC Preliminary NMs (EP NMs).
Installing the Admiralty Information Overlay

Compatible Equipment

The Overlay can be displayed on compatible ECDIS equipment and also in Admiralty e-Navigator Planning Station. Please see the UKHO website at [www.ukho.gov.uk/AVCS](http://www.ukho.gov.uk/AVCS) for an up to date list of compatible equipment, or consult your ECDIS supplier. Most ECDIS equipment installed prior to 2011 will require an upgrade before it will be able to display the Overlay.

Installing Overlay Permits

The Overlay data is protected in the same way as ENCs and requires a permit to unlock the data. Please notify your Admiralty Chart Agent if you wish to use the Overlay on any compatible display system so that the Overlay permit can be added to the Chart Permit files issued to you.

The Overlay permit will be loaded at the same time as your ENC permits when the Chart Permit files are loaded (see ‘Loading Charts for the First Time’ in the AVCS User Guide).

When the Overlay is added to your AVCS licence the Overlay permit will be added to the Chart Permit files issued for all ECDIS registered on the licence. Older ECDIS that do not recognise the Overlay may display a message when attempting to load the Overlay permit. This message will not prevent the ENC permits loading correctly.

Installing Overlay Data

The Overlay data is provided on a single weekly CD that contains both base data and all updates up to the date of issue. Therefore only the latest CD is required for installation and all others can be discarded.

The Overlay data is loaded in to the display system in the same way as ENC data. Note that some display systems may require you to run an ‘Update ENC’ process after loading the base data to ensure that all updates on the disk are also applied.

Updating the Overlay

Updates to the Overlay are issued weekly on CD, along with the weekly AVCS Update CD, and are also available over the Internet through e-Navigator. Updates on CD should be loaded in the same way as loading ENC updates (see ‘Maintaining the Chart Outfit’ in the AVCS User Guide).

The data volume in each weekly update is normally small. However it is necessary to issue a New Edition of the Overlay every 6 months, which consolidates all update data into a base data set. This New Edition may be over a hundred megabytes in size which will make it impractical for most users to download over the Internet and an Admiralty Information Overlay CD should be used.

When an Overlay new edition is issued (see above), the new edition must be installed before any further updates can be applied. For users who normally update over the Internet this means that an Overlay update CD will need to be installed before further Internet updates can be applied.
Using the Admiralty Information Overlay

Displaying the Overlay

The Overlay is designed to be displayed on top of a standard ECDIS chart display and can be switched on and off without changing the underlying chart.

Only those features relevant to the chart in use are displayed. As the user zooms in or out, the ECDIS will automatically select charts of a suitable scale and the Overlay features relevant to the selected charts will be displayed. For example, a Temporary NM that applies only to a large scale chart will not be displayed when smaller scale charts of the same area are being used.

T&P NMs

All Admiralty T&P NMs that are in force are included in the Overlay. Each NM is displayed as a simple red polygon (usually rectangular) with red hatched fill which indicates the area affected by the NM. Each NM carries the same NM number that is used in the Admiralty Notices to Mariners Bulletin.

The full text of the NM is included as an associated text file which can be displayed by selecting the ‘Temporary Notice to Mariners’ or ‘Preliminary Notice to Manners’ feature in the ECDIS Pick Report. Any associated diagrams can also be viewed through the Pick Report.

Figure 1 Preliminary (P) NM showing text and diagram
EP NMs

ENC P (EP) NMs contain additional information that is specific to ENCs and cannot be published as a standard Admiralty T&P NM. These NMs are displayed in the same way as T&P NMs, as a simple red polygon (usually rectangular) with red hatched fill which indicates the area affected by the NM. Each NM is allocated a unique EP NM number.

The full text of the NM can be viewed in the ECDIS Pick Report against the Information attribute. Where additional information is needed to explain the NM an associated picture file displays an image showing the ENC superimposed over the current paper chart information.

‘No Overlay’ Feature

Where there is no equivalent scale Admiralty paper chart, the UKHO does not have any additional information and the Overlay shows a ‘No Overlay’ feature. This feature is displayed as a grey polygon with a grey hatched fill indicating the area where there is no overlay information.

Additional information, such as local T&P NMs, may be available in these areas from other sources. When navigating in these areas, seafarers should ensure that all appropriate sources of information have been consulted.

Using the Overlay in the Navigation Process

The Admiralty Information Overlay contains additional information that is considered navigationally significant and may affect your voyage. This information should be referred to when planning your passage and may also be temporarily displayed during route monitoring.

When planning your passage it is normal to review all charts (and therefore ENCs) that are expected to be used on the passage. When these charts are reviewed the Overlay should be turned on and any features that could affect the planned route should be investigated. Those features that are significant for the planned passage should be marked using Mariner’s Navigation Objects, which can be displayed by the ECDIS when navigating. Sufficient information should be attached to the Mariner’s Navigation Objects to inform the navigator of the action to be taken when they are encountered on passage.
If the navigational ECDIS is capable of displaying the Overlay, Overlay information may temporarily be displayed when navigating. To avoid too much information obscuring the chart display the Overlay should normally be turned off and should only be turned on for brief periods when required for reference. Therefore Mariner’s Navigation Objects should be used to draw attention to relevant Overlay features when the Overlay is turned off.
Copyright Information

The Admiralty Information Overlay is derived from Crown Copyright information and information supplied by other organisations. Except as provided in the End User Licence, no part of the Admiralty Information Overlay may be sold, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the express permission of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, Admiralty Way, Taunton, Somerset, United Kingdom, TA1 2DN.
Feedback

The UKHO welcomes customer comments, if you would like to provide any feedback, please forward any comments via your Admiralty Distributor or directly to the UKHO Customer Services Team. Contact details are shown below.

Contact Details

Company Contact

If your company has a specific policy for obtaining support on IT and navigational systems, please enter details here, with contact details for the Support department:

ECDIS Manufacturer

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Chart Agent

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UKHO

<table>
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