

ASTRONOMICAL INFORMATION SHEET No. 8



Prepared by

HM Nautical Almanac Office

THE UNITED KINGDOM HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

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Time-scales used in the United Kingdom from 1880 onwards

The time-scale used for general purposes in the United Kingdom is Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), except during those periods of Summer Time when the clocks are advanced by one or two hours. Prior to 1916 October 1, the standard time for the whole of Ireland was Dublin mean time (GMT - 25 minutes), however, during the period 1916 May 21 to 1916 October 1 Irish clocks were advanced by one hour on Dublin mean time. Thereafter, time in Ireland was synchronised with that of Great Britain.

Before 1981, the change from GMT to GMT + 1h and the reversion occurred at 2 am GMT on the dates given overleaf; the change from GMT to GMT + 1h and the reversion in 1981-1992, and all changes from GMT + 1h to GMT + 2h and the subsequent reversions occur at 1 am GMT on the dates given. All changes occur on Sundays, except for the reversion to GMT in 1917-1921 inclusive, and the change to GMT + 2h in 1945, which occurred on Mondays.

Care must be taken with dates before 1925 since the astronomical day began at noon on the civil day of the same date. The dates in the table overleaf refer to the civil calendar.

GMT + 1h was kept continuously from 1968 February 18 to 1971 October 31. In 1968 Summer Time ended at 2 am GMT on October 27 and was immediately followed by British Standard Time, also equal to GMT + 1h, which was the time system in use between 1968 October 27 and 1971 October 31.

In 1972-1980 the following rule, from Section 1 of the Summer Time Act 1972, applied: Summer Time (GMT + 1h) is the period from the day following the third Saturday in March or, if that day is Easter Day (which will not occur in this century) the day following the second Saturday in March to the day following the fourth Saturday in October. The change occurs at 2 am GMT.

In 1981-1994 the following rule applies: Summer Time (GMT + 1h) is the period from the last Sunday in March to the day following the fourth Saturday in October. The change occurs at 1 am GMT.

For 1995-1997 the dates are given on the reverse of this sheet.

For the years 1998 – 2001 the dates are given by the EU 8th Directive on Summer Time, which operate from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October, and the changes occur at 1am GMT, and the changes occur at 1am GMT.

For the years 2002 – 2007, and beyond, the EU 9th Directive on Summer Time rules apply. These rules are the same as those of the 8th Directive.

Since 1972 January 1 the Greenwich time signals have been based on an internationally-adopted time-scale known as "Coordinated Universal Time" (UTC). This scale is derived from "International Atomic Time" (TAI) by the occasional insertion of a "leap second" to keep the scale close to Greenwich mean solar time. Such leap seconds were inserted after the sixtieth second of the last minute of 1972 June 30, of December 31 in 1972-1979 inclusive, of June 30 1981-1983, 1985 June 30, 1987 December 31, 1989 December 31, 1990 December 31, of June 30 1992-1994, 1995 December 31, 1997 June 31, 1998 December 31. Such occasions are marked in the BBC broadcasts by the emission of seven, instead of six, time pips; the beginning of the last (lengthened) pip marks the commencement of the first second of the next minute, as usual.

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continued

1880	GMT	1931 Apr. 19 GMT + 1 ^h	1946 Oct. 6 GMT	1961 Mar. 2 GMT + 1 ^h	1979 Oct. 28 GMT	1995 Mar. 26 GMT + 1 ^h
1916	May 21 GMT + 1 ^h	1931 Oct. 4 GMT	1947 Mar. 16 GMT + 1 ^h	1961 Oct. 29 GMT	1980 Mar. 16 GMT + 1 ^h	1995 Oct. 22 GMT
1916	Oct. 1 GMT	1932 Apr. 17 GMT + 1 ^h	1947 Apr. 13 GMT + 2 ^h	1962 Mar. 25 GMT + 1 ^h	1980 Oct. 26 GMT	1996 Mar. 31 GMT + 1 ^h
1917	Apr. 8 GMT + 1 ^h	1932 Oct. 2 GMT	1947 Aug. 10 GMT + 1 ^h	1962 Oct. 28 GMT	1981 Mar. 29 GMT + 1 ^h	1996 Oct. 27 GMT
1917	Sept. 17 GMT	1933 Apr. 9 GMT + 1 ^h	1947 Nov. 2 GMT	1963 Mar. 31 GMT + 1 ^h	1981 Oct. 25 GMT	1997 Mar. 30 GMT + 1 ^h
1918	Mar. 24 GMT + 1 ^h	1933 Oct. 8 GMT	1948 Mar. 14 GMT + 1 ^h	1963 Oct. 27 GMT	1982 Mar. 28 GMT + 1 ^h	1997 Oct. 26 GMT
1918	Sept. 30 GMT	1934 Apr. 22 GMT + 1 ^h	1948 Oct. 31 GMT	1964 Mar. 22 GMT + 1 ^h	1982 Oct. 24 GMT	1998 Mar. 29 GMT + 1 ^h
1919	Mar. 30 GMT + 1 ^h	1934 Oct. 7 GMT	1949 Apr. 3 GMT + 1 ^h	1964 Oct. 25 GMT	1983 Mar. 27 GMT + 1 ^h	1998 Oct. 25 GMT
1919	Sept. 29 GMT	1935 Apr. 14 GMT + 1 ^h	1949 Oct. 30 GMT	1965 Mar. 21 GMT + 1 ^h	1983 Oct. 23 GMT	1999 Mar. 28 GMT + 1 ^h
1920	Mar. 28 GMT + 1 ^h	1935 Oct. 6 GMT	1950 Apr. 16 GMT + 1 ^h	1965 Oct. 24 GMT	1984 Mar. 25 GMT + 1 ^h	1999 Oct. 31 GMT
1920	Oct. 25 GMT	1936 Apr. 19 GMT + 1 ^h	1950 Oct. 22 GMT	1966 Mar. 20 GMT + 1 ^h	1984 Oct. 28 GMT	2000 Mar. 26 GMT + 1 ^h
1921	Apr. 3 GMT + 1 ^h	1936 Oct. 4 GMT	1951 Apr. 15 GMT + 1 ^h	1966 Oct. 23 GMT	1985 Mar. 31 GMT + 1 ^h	2000 Oct. 29 GMT
1921	Oct. 3 GMT	1937 Apr. 18 GMT + 1 ^h	1951 Oct. 21 GMT	1967 Mar. 19 GMT + 1 ^h	1985 Oct. 27 GMT	2001 Mar. 25 GMT + 1 ^h
1922	Mar. 26 GMT + 1 ^h	1937 Oct. 3 GMT	1952 Apr. 20 GMT + 1 ^h	1967 Oct. 29 GMT	1986 Mar. 30 GMT + 1 ^h	2001 Oct. 28 GMT
1922	Oct. 8 GMT	1938 Apr. 10 GMT + 1 ^h	1952 Oct. 26 GMT	1968 Feb. 18 GMT + 1 ^h	1986 Oct. 26 GMT	2002 Mar. 31 GMT + 1 ^h
1923	Apr. 22 GMT + 1 ^h	1938 Oct. 2 GMT	1953 Apr. 19 GMT + 1 ^h	1971 Oct. 31 GMT	1987 Mar. 29 GMT + 1 ^h	2002 Oct. 27 GMT
1923	Sept. 16 GMT	1939 Apr. 16 GMT + 1 ^h	1953 Oct. 4 GMT	1972 Mar. 19 GMT + 1 ^h	1987 Oct. 25 GMT	2003 Mar. 30 GMT + 1 ^h
1924	Apr. 13 GMT + 1 ^h	1939 Nov. 19 GMT	1954 Apr. 11 GMT + 1 ^h	1972 Oct. 29 GMT	1988 Mar. 27 GMT + 1 ^h	2003 Oct. 26 GMT
1924	Sept. 21 GMT	1940 Feb. 25 GMT + 1 ^h	1954 Oct. 3 GMT	1973 Mar. 18 GMT + 1 ^h	1988 Oct. 23 GMT	2004 Mar. 28 GMT + 1 ^h
1925	Apr. 19 GMT + 1 ^h	1941 May 4 GMT + 2 ^h	1955 Apr. 17 GMT + 1 ^h	1973 Oct. 28 GMT	1989 Mar. 26 GMT + 1 ^h	2004 Oct. 31 GMT
1925	Oct. 4 GMT	1941 Aug. 10 GMT + 1 ^h	1955 Oct. 2 GMT	1974 Mar. 17 GMT + 1 ^h	1989 Oct. 29 GMT	2005 Mar. 27 GMT + 1 ^h
1926	Apr. 18 GMT + 1 ^h	1942 Apr. 5 GMT + 2 ^h	1956 Apr. 22 GMT + 1 ^h	1974 Oct. 27 GMT	1990 Mar. 25 GMT + 1 ^h	2005 Oct. 30 GMT
1926	Oct. 3 GMT	1942 Aug. 9 GMT + 1 ^h	1956 Oct. 7 GMT	1975 Mar. 16 GMT + 1 ^h	1990 Oct. 28 GMT	2006 Mar. 26 GMT + 1 ^h
1927	Apr. 10 GMT + 1 ^h	1943 Apr. 4 GMT + 2 ^h	1957 Apr. 14 GMT + 1 ^h	1975 Oct. 26 GMT	1991 Mar. 31 GMT + 1 ^h	2006 Oct. 29 GMT
1927	Oct. 2 GMT	1943 Aug. 15 GMT + 1 ^h	1957 Oct. 6 GMT	1976 Mar. 21 GMT + 1 ^h	1991 Oct. 27 GMT	2007 Mar. 25 GMT + 1 ^h
1928	Apr. 22 GMT + 1 ^h	1944 Apr. 2 GMT + 2 ^h	1958 Apr. 20 GMT + 1 ^h	1976 Oct. 24 GMT	1992 Mar. 29 GMT + 1 ^h	2007 Oct. 28 GMT
1928	Oct. 7 GMT	1944 Sept. 17 GMT + 1 ^h	1958 Oct. 5 GMT	1977 Mar. 20 GMT + 1 ^h	1992 Oct. 25 GMT	2008 Mar. 30 GMT + 1 ^h
1929	Apr. 21 GMT + 1 ^h	1945 Apr. 2 GMT + 2 ^h	1959 Apr. 19 GMT + 1 ^h	1977 Oct. 23 GMT	1993 Mar. 28 GMT + 1 ^h	2008 Oct. 26 GMT
1929	Oct. 6 GMT	1945 July 15 GMT + 1 ^h	1959 Oct. 4 GMT	1978 Mar. 19 GMT + 1 ^h	1993 Oct. 24 GMT	2009 Mar. 29 GMT + 1 ^h
1930	Apr. 13 GMT + 1 ^h	1945 Oct. 7 GMT	1960 Apr. 10 GMT + 1 ^h	1978 Oct. 29 GMT	1994 Mar. 27 GMT + 1 ^h	2009 Oct. 25 GMT
1930	Oct. 5 GMT	1946 Apr. 14 GMT + 1 ^h	1960 Oct. 2 GMT	1979 Mar. 18 GMT + 1 ^h	1994 Oct. 23 GMT	
1931	Apr. 19	1946 Oct. 6	1961 Mar. 26	1979 Oct. 28	1995 Mar. 26	