

IHB File S3/8151/TSMAD

<p>CIRCULAR LETTER 13/1999 12 March 1999</p>
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**PRODUCT SPECIFICATION for
RASTER NAVIGATIONAL CHARTS (RNC)**

IHO PUBLICATION S-61

Dear Sir,

Attached is a copy of the 1st edition of IHO Publication S-61 "Product Specification for Raster Navigational Charts (RNC)". Additional copies are being dispatched as necessary.

This new publication follows the adoption of Resolution MSC.86 (70) by the International Maritime Organization in December 1998, which permits ECDIS equipment to operate in a Raster Chart Display System (RCDS) mode, together with an appropriate folio of up-to-date paper charts, in the absence of ENC's.

The RCDS mode of operation is described in a new Appendix 7 to the IMO Performance Standards for ECDIS. For convenience Appendix 7 is annexed to S-61, with the kind permission of IMO.

A key component of the RCDS mode is the Raster Navigational Chart (RNC) referred to at Section 4.1 of Appendix 7, where it is stated that the RNC used must conform to IHO standards.

The necessary RNC Product Specification was developed by the IHO Transfer Standard Maintenance and Application Development Working Group (TSMAD) during 1997 and 1998 and was adopted by the IHO Committee on Hydrographic Requirements and Information Systems (CHRIS) in October 1998.

Additional copies of S-61 are available from the Bureau on request. The digital version of S-61 will be attached to any e-mails sending out this Circular Letter.

It is planned to produce a French version of S-61 before the end of the year.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Rear Admiral Neil GUY
Director

Encl: S-61