

CIRCULAR LETTER 61/1999
10 December 1999

IHO TRANSFER STANDARD FOR DIGITAL HYDROGRAPHIC DATA
S-57, Edition 3.1, November 2000

- Ref: 1) IHB Circular Letter No. 60/1996 of 9 December 1996
2) IHB Circular Letter No. 54/1997 of 19 December 1997

Dear Sir,

S-57, Edition 3.0, was published in November 1996 and distributed with CL 60/1996. As stated in its preface, it was decided that Edition 3.0 **would be frozen, i.e. remained unaltered, for a period of four years (until November 2000)** in order to facilitate ENC production and to provide stability for ECDIS manufacturers.

S-57 is maintained by the Transfer Standard Maintenance and Applications Development Working Group (TSMAD) of the IHO Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems (CHRIS).

At a TSMAD Meeting in June 1998, one of the items addressed was what action should be taken at the end of the freeze period, i.e. in November 2000. It was noted that whilst S-57 is intended to support all hydrographic applications, its only use so far was for ENC-related activities. Furthermore, no official ENC services were available, very little ENC data was being used for navigation, and there were no type approved ECDIS systems. It was therefore proposed by TSMAD, and subsequently endorsed by CHRIS, that it would not be desirable to produce a major new edition of S-57.

However, based on practical experience, some hydrographic offices had identified approximately forty attribute values that they required for ENC purposes but which were not contained in Edition 3.0. It was therefore agreed that a limited new edition of S-57, Edition 3.1, would be published at the end of the freeze period, which would **incorporate these additional attribute values but no other new information**. Instructions on the use of the new attribute values for ENC purposes will be included in the "ENC Product Specification" and "Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC", as necessary.

Edition 3.1 will come into force in November 2000 at the end of the Edition 3.0 freeze period, but is being made available a year in advance (as from November 1999), to allow data producers and equipment manufacturers to familiarize themselves with the new contents. Following its publication, **S-57, Edition 3.1 will remain frozen until at least November 2002**. It must be stressed that **Edition 3.0 will remain the official edition of S-57 until November 2000**.

It is probable that the new attribute values will only be used by a small number of Hydrographic Offices. Hence, for most data producers, Edition 3.1 will be the same as Edition 3.0.

Edition 3.1 (included herewith) is produced in Portable Document Format (**PDF**) (for more information, see attached booklet, page 7). It is provided to all Member States and other holders of Edition 3.0, free of charge, for familiarization purposes. The price for new private purchasers will remain at 1,500 FF. To assist with the familiarization exercise, all new information in Edition 3.1 has been highlighted. A list of the pages on which changes occur is at Annex A.

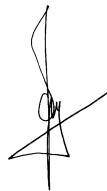
S-57 is maintained by means of a **Maintenance Document (MD)**, a new edition of which is usually produced following each TSMAD meeting. The S-57 Maintenance Document is cumulative, that is the latest edition also includes the contents of previous editions. The only sections of S-57 that are not frozen are Appendix B1 - Annex A (Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC) and Appendix A - Annex A (IHO Codes for Producing Agencies). New editions of these documents are produced as required, usually following the incorporation of changes that have been agreed at TSMAD meetings. The latest editions of the above two documents can be found on the IHO Web-site (www.iho.shom.fr).

Because Edition 3.1 is a minor new edition, the only information that has been transferred to it from the current Maintenance Document are the new attribute values referred to above. "Clarifications" contained in the Maintenance Document remain of relevance to Edition 3.1, but are not included in it. "Clarifications" in the latest edition of the MD must therefore be taken into account before making use of Edition 3.1.

The current edition of the ENC Product Specification (S-57 Appendix B1) is Edition 1.0. The edition for use with S-57 Edition 3.1 will be numbered Edition 2.0. The current edition of the Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC is Edition 1.4. As this document is an annex to the ENC Product Specification, the first edition for use with S-57 Edition 3.1 will also be numbered Edition 2.0. For the same reasons, the edition of the IHO Object Catalogue Data Dictionary Product Specification for use with S-57 Edition 3.1 will be numbered Edition 2.0. However, the Example of CRC Coding, which is also an annex to the ENC Product Specification, remains as Edition 1 as it contains no changes. As explained in the paragraph above, most of the contents of the Maintenance Document will not be incorporated into S-57 Edition 3.1. As a result, the Maintenance Document numbering system will continue to increment, i.e. MD 1.4, MD 1.5, MD 1.6, etc., until S-57 Edition 3.1 is replaced by the next new edition which will not happen before November 2002.

Member States are invited to familiarize themselves with the contents of Edition 3.1, prior to its coming into force in November 2000.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Rear Admiral Neil GUY
Director

Encls: (in English only) S-57, Ed. 3.1
One booklet
Annex A

**LIST OF S-57 EDITION 3.1 DOCUMENTS AND PAGE NUMBERS
CONTAINING CHANGES**

The following pages of the S-57 Edition 3.1 documents, contain changes. All changes to the content of the various documents (excluding the Preface, and document numbering) appear in **bold italic** print in the document concerned. Relevant filenames appear in *italics* in the list below.

The Main document comprising Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3, with its associated Annex A and Annex B (*31Main.pdf*):

Page numbers: i, ii, 3.35

Appendix A Chapter 1 – Object Catalogue Chapter 1 (Object Classes) (*31ApACh1.pdf*):

No changes.

Appendix A Chapter 2 – Object Catalogue Chapter 2 (Attribute Classes) (*31ApACh2.pdf*):

Page numbers: 2.11, 2.20, 2.21, 2.36, 2.37, 2.38, 2.39, 2.43, 2.44, 2.45, 2.46, 2.50, 2.56, 2.57, 2.64, 2.74, 2.75, 2.76, 2.80, 2.83, 2.84, 2.85, 2.86, 2.87, 2.88, 2.91, 2.92, 2.95, 2.97, 2.165, 2.178, 2.179, 2.180, 2.238, 2.239, 2.241, 2.244.

Appendix A Annex B – Attribute/Object Classes Cross – reference. (*31Xref.pdf*):

No changes.

Appendix B1 - ENC Product Specification (*20Apb1.pdf*):

Page numbers: 10, 15, 16, 23, 24, 29, 30.

Appendix B1 Annex A – Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC (*20USOC.pdf*):

Page numbers: A.1, A.18, A.26, A.29, A.46, A.50, A.66, A.80, A.81.

Appendix B1 Annex B – Examples of CRC Codes (*10CRC.pdf*):

No changes

Appendix B2 – IHO Object Catalog Data Dictionary Product Specification (*20Apb2.pdf*):

Page numbers: 1
