

IHB File No. S3/3057

CIRCULAR LETTER 18/2000
14 April 2000

SOLAS CONVENTION CHAPTER V

References: a) IHB CL 49/1999 dated 28 October 1999
b) IHB CL 54/1999 dated 26 November 1999
c) IHB CL 10/2000 dated 22 February 2000

Dear Sir,

The attention of Member States is drawn to the above-referenced IHB Circular Letters dealing with the amendments to Chapter V of the SOLAS Convention.

As reported in CL10/2000, the result of the voting by Member States on whether the term "official" should be retained in Chapter V, when referring to nautical charts and publications, was inconclusive. 21 Member States wanted the term to be eliminated and 20 Member States wanted it retained. As the 72nd Meeting of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC72) is the last opportunity for the IHO to have the amendments it has developed over the last 10 years included in Chapter V, it is imperative that a consensus be evident on this issue.

A meeting of Member States was therefore held on 19 March 2000, immediately prior to the 2nd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference. Although this Meeting had no mandate to accept or approve any wording, it was hoped that a consensus could be obtained on the important text to allow the IHB to submit comments to MSC72. It was also hoped that this would lead to the acceptance of Regulations 2, 9, 18 and 22 of Chapter V by the MSC72 Plenary Session. As it is imperative that MSC72 finalize the wording of this Chapter, it is possible that all references to Hydrographic Offices, their role and their services will be referred to the next revision of Chapter V at some undetermined date in the future, if Member States cannot show a majority opinion on the issue.

After much discussion, the attached text in English, French and Spanish was overwhelmingly approved by those Member States present. This has been submitted to the IMO as a comment paper and copies of the submission were made available to those Member States attending the EIHC. A copy is attached for your information (Appendix I).

Member States are urged to consider the suggested text and to advise their delegation to MSC72 of their views on this important matter.

On behalf of the Directing Committee,
Yours sincerely,

Rear Admiral Neil GUY
Director

Encl: Appendix I

IHB File S3/3057

Monaco, 23 March 2000

The Secretary General
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
United Kingdom

AMENDMENTS TO SOLAS CHAPTER V

Dear Sir,

Attached are comments submitted by the International Hydrographic Bureau on behalf of the Member States of the International Hydrographic Organization in regard to documents MSC/72/10; NAV/45/14 and NAV 45/14/Add.1.

In addition, translations of the proposed text in Regulation 2.2 in French and Spanish are submitted for consideration.

All three versions of the proposed text of Regulation 2.2 have been thoroughly debated by IHO Member States.

Should MSC 72 adopt the proposed amendment it is requested that the IMO Secretariat favourably consider the French and Spanish texts submitted.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,


Rear Admiral Neil GUY
Director

Annex A – Submission by the IHO

Annex B – Proposed IHO texts in French and Spanish

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
72th Session
Agenda itemMSC 72/
May 2000
Original: ENGLISH**REVISION OF SOLAS CHAPTER V****Submission by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)****SUMMARY**

Executive summary: This IHO submission provides agreed IHO wording for certain paragraphs in Regulations 2, 9, 19 and 27 of the revised SOLAS Chapter V.

Action to be taken: Paragraphs 6 and 7

Related Documents: MSC/72/10; NAV/45/14 and NAV 45/14/Add.1

Background

1. The definition of nautical charts and nautical publications as appearing in the draft Regulation 2.2 was accepted by NAV 45 for consideration by MSC72 with the term “official” in square brackets.
2. This definition is extremely important as it describes the core function of national Hydrographic Offices.
3. In accordance with an undertaking given to NAV 45 by the IHO, opinion was sought of all the IHO Member States, resulting in a specific meeting that was convened to resolve the matter.
4. At this meeting, which was held in Monaco on 19 March, immediately prior to the 2nd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference of the IHO, overwhelming support was given to the following text.

"[~~Official~~] *Nautical chart* or [~~Official~~] *Nautical publication* is a special-purpose map or book, or a specially compiled database from which such a map or book is derived, that is issued **officially** by or on the authority of, the Government, the authorized Hydrographic Office, or other relevant government institutions, and is designed to meet the requirements of marine navigation."

5. It should be noted that the only difference between this text and the text submitted by NAV45 is the replacement of the terms [~~Official~~] in line 1 with the term officially in line 2.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

Action requested of the Committee

6. The Committee is invited to consider this proposed amended text as contained in paragraph 4, as an effective resolution of the use of the term [official] in relation to nautical charts and nautical publications contained in MSC/72/10; NAV/45/14 and NAV 45/14/Add.1.
7. The Committee is invited to note that this agreed IHO text for Regulation 2.2 removes the need for the term [official] in Regulations 9.2.2, 19.1.2.4 and 27.

SOLAS-CHAPTER V – REGULATION 2
Definitions and Clarifications
Proposed IHO versions in French and Spanish languages

FRENCH

« Une carte marine **{officielle}** ou une publication nautique **{officielle}** est une carte ou une publication spécifique, ou encore une base de données compilée spécialement pour l'élaboration d'une telle carte ou publication, qui est conçue pour répondre aux impératifs de la navigation maritime et qui est publiée **de manière officielle** par le gouvernement, le service hydrographique accrédité ou toute autre institution gouvernementale compétente, ou sous leur tutelle. »

SPANISH

“Carta Náutica **{oficial}** o publicación náutica **{oficial}** es una carta o publicación con un objetivo especial, o una base de datos compilada especialmente a partir de la cual tal carta o publicación es producida, y que **oficialmente** es publicada por o con la autoridad del Gobierno, del Servicio Hidrográfico autorizado u otras instituciones gubernamentales pertinentes, y que está concebida para satisfacer los requisitos de la navegación marítima.”