

IHB File No. S3/3057

CIRCULAR LETTER 50/2000
17 November 2000

REVISION OF SOLAS CHAPTER V

Reference: IHB CL 24/2000

Dear Sir,

Based on the results of the Member States' voting in response to CL 24/2000, a proposal was made by the IHB to the IMO Secretariat for consideration by MSC 73. (*MSC73/3/12*)

Subsequently Chile submitted a proposal to the IMO for consideration of a revision of Regulation 2.2 by MSC 73 (*MSC73/3/14*). Discussions with the Hydrographer of Chile have confirmed that, while the content of the Chilean proposal reflects the ultimate aims and objectives of the IHO, there exists a large number of coastal States (approximately 84) for whom charting is undertaken by another Member State at present. This is usually as a part of a worldwide chart folio. 71 of these States are not IHO Member States. A list of these States is attached (Annex A). It is likely that this service will be required for a considerable time to come, if not permanently.

The IHB holds the view that approval of the Chilean proposal by MSC 73 could result in the cessation of charting services in these regions and require the State, providing this world service, to enter into bi-lateral agreements with all the relevant coastal States before recommencing the service. In view of the time it has taken to finalize agreements with just a few of these States, it is likely that discussions concerning possible bi-lateral agreements would be protracted.

A large number of INT Charting Schemes would also be affected.

Chile is of the opinion that :

"Approval by MSC 73 of the Chilean proposal must not result in the cessation of charting services in these regions, and that, on the contrary, it should result in the reinforcement within relevant coastal States of the need to increase the priority and importance being given today to hydrography and charting. The situation in force might require possible bi-lateral agreement between States providing a world service and those relevant coastal States. Those agreements, if they progress, must be developed keeping in mind that its aim is to enhance hydrographic knowledge and, through that, to improve safety to navigation."

The IHB regards the charting service to developing States as essential to their economic progress, but the importance of hydrography and charting is not always appreciated by the State concerned, and the process of developing a hydrographic service or persuading a government of the necessity to enter into a bi-lateral agreement with a charting nation is a lengthy process.

The IHB believes that the IHO proposal on Regulation 2.2 addresses both the concerns of Chile and the requirement for charting in developing areas. Should the IHO proposal be adopted by MSC 73, however, the IHB feels it important to ensure that the concerns of Member States, such as Chile, over the development of hydrographic services worldwide are adequately covered by the Resolutions of the IHO. The IHB would, therefore, in conjunction with the appropriate IHO Working Groups, undertake a review of the existing IHO Resolutions and Recommendations to ensure that the concerns over these important considerations are duly catered for. Any changes that may be deemed necessary would be submitted to IHO Member States for consideration and approval in the normal manner.

The IHB is seriously concerned that the important hydrographic clauses now contained in SOLAS V could be in jeopardy if IHO Member States are not able to agree on issues of this nature at this late stage. Member States are earnestly requested, therefore, to thoroughly consider this matter and to brief their delegations to MSC 73 on the implications of the various options being considered by MSC.

On behalf the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Rear Admiral Neil GUY
Director

Annex A

IHO Non-Member States for whom charting is undertaken by one or more States.

(71 countries)

(Some charts may also be produced by these States but generally their waters are charted without bi-lateral agreements at this stage.)

Albania	Guinea Bissau	Panama
Antigua	Guyana	Paraguay
Bahamas	Haiti	Qatar*
Bangladesh*	Honduras	Romania
Barbados	Iraq	St. Kitts
Benin	Ireland	St. Lucia
Brunei	Israel	St. Vincent & Grenadines
Bulgaria*	Jordan	Samoa
Cabo Verde	Kenya	Saudi Arabia
Cambodia	Kiribati	Senegal
Cameroon	Kuwait*	Seychelles
Congo	Latvia	Sierra Leone
Cook Is.	Lebanon	Slovenia*
Costa Rica	Liberia	Solomon Is.
Côte d'Ivoire	Lithuania	Sudan
Djibouti	Madagascar	Tanzania
Dominica	Malta	Togo
El Salvador	Marshall Is.	Tuvalu
Eritrea	Mauritania*	Vanuatu
French Guyana	Mauritius	Vietnam
Gabon	Mexico*	Yemen
Gambia	Myanmar*	
Ghana	Namibia	
Grenada	Nevis	
Guinea	Nicaragua	

* *IHO Membership pending*

13 IHO Member States for whom some charting is undertaken by other Member States.

(Bi-lateral agreements will also be needed for this service to continue.)

Algeria	Nigeria
Congo	Papua New Guinea
Cyprus	Sri Lanka
Dominican Republic	Syria
Guatemala	Trinidad & Tobago
Jamaica	Tunisia
Morocco	