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**CIRCULAR LETTER 5/2001
26 January 2001**

**FINAL ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO SOLAS CHAPTER V
BY MSC 73**

Reference: IHB CL 50/2000 dated 17 November 2000.

Dear Sir,

At the 73rd Meeting of IMO's Maritime Safety Committee, the long-awaited amendments to Chapter V of the IMO SOLAS Convention were adopted.

Included in these amendments are references to hydrographic requirements for the first time. A number of significant regulations were approved (Annex A), amongst which Regulation 2.2 and footnote, which contains the definition of a nautical chart or publication, Regulation 9 and footnote, which lists the hydrographic requirements that States party to the Convention are required to provide, and Regulation 18.4 and footnote, where specific reference is made to ECDIS. There was much debate while these amendments were being drafted but the final versions were unanimously approved by the MSC 73 Plenary Session.

IHO Member States' participation in IHO and IMO meetings and by correspondence and their involvement in the drafting of the final wording of these regulations were extensive and the work of the Bureau was greatly facilitated by the serious approach adopted by the Member States and their vigorous contributions. It is hoped that the way is now clear for a much improved worldwide development of hydrographic services and ENC production.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA CONVENTION
Chapter V

Regulation 2.2

Definitions

Nautical chart or *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 a Government, authorized Hydrographic office or other relevant government institution and is designed to meet the requirements of marine navigation. *

*Refer to appropriate resolutions and recommendations of the International Hydrographic Organization concerning the authority and responsibilities of coastal States in the provision of charting in accordance with regulation 9.

Regulation 9

Hydrographic Services

- 1) Contracting Governments undertake to arrange for the collection and compilation of hydrographic data and the publication, dissemination and keeping up to date of all nautical information necessary for safe navigation.
- 2) In particular, Contracting Governments undertake to co-operate in carrying out, as far as possible, the following nautical and hydrographic services, in the manner most suitable for the purpose of aiding navigation:
 - .1 to ensure that hydrographic surveying is carried out, as far as possible, adequate to the requirements of safe navigation;
 - .2 to prepare and issue nautical charts, sailing directions, lists of lights, tide tables and other nautical publications, where applicable, satisfying the needs of safe navigation;
 - .3 to promulgate notices to mariners in order that nautical charts and publications are kept, as far as possible, up to date;
 - .4 to provide data management arrangements to support these services.
- 3) Contracting Governments undertake to ensure the greatest possible uniformity in charts and nautical publications and to take into account, whenever possible, relevant international resolutions and recommendations. *

systems installed before 1 January 1999, not inferior to the performance standards adopted by the Organization on 23 November 1995. *

* Recommendation of Performance Standards for Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS) (resolution A.817(19), as amended, and resolution MSC.86(70).