

SENC DISTRIBUTION OPTION

References: 1) IHB Circular Letter 15/2001/Rev.1, dated 15 March 2001
2) IHB Circular Letter 49/2001, dated 18 October 2001

Dear Sir,

Member States' attention is directed to the IHB Circular Letter in Reference 1) above, in which voting was requested on a proposal to amend the wording of IHO Publication S-52, paragraph 3.3. The deadline had initially been fixed at 1st May 2001. It was subsequently postponed *sine die* at the request of the Member States who had originally proposed these amendments at the 12th CHRIS Meeting held in Valparaiso (Chile) in November 2000 (see CL in ref. 1, Attachment I). In spite of the fact that the closing date had been suspended, a number of Member States voted and commented on the proposal. These comments were valuable in the discussions that followed [see Doc. CHRIS/13/7B, which is available on the IHO website (www.iho.shom.fr/general/ecdis/ecdisnew1.htm)].

The initial proposal to allow SENC distribution as an option arose because some Member States felt that it should be up to their National Authorities to decide which format they should allow their ENC data to be distributed in.

The proposal was reconsidered at the 6th WEND Meeting in Norfolk, USA in May 2001, at the IHO Industry Workshop in Monaco on 28-29 June 2001, and again at the 13th CHRIS Meeting in Athens, Greece on 17-19 September 2001. The result of these deliberations is that, after much debate and careful consideration, the CHRIS Meeting recommends amendments to IHO S-52, paragraph 3.3, and has added a Technical Resolution, based on the Premises and Safeguards drafted at the 12th CHRIS Meeting (see Annex A), which are to be considered at the same time.

In essence the changes will ensure the following:

- 1) The official version of digital chart data is the ENC in S-57 format;
- 2) National Authorities are required to ensure that their ENC data is always available in S-57 format;
- 3) National Authorities may decide, at their discretion, to also allow their ENC data to be distributed in a SENC format.

The suggested amendments to S-52, paragraph 3.3, and the proposed Technical Resolution are attached for your information (Annexes B and C, respectively).

The voting which was requested in IHB CL 15/2001/Rev.1 is hereby cancelled. However, as it is important that both the proposed amendment to S-52 and a new Technical Resolution be approved at the same time, Member States are requested to vote using the voting form attached to this CL (Annex D).

All votes cast previously in response to the CL in Reference 1 will be disregarded and Member States are requested to submit their new voting forms **by 1 December 2001**.

Thank you for your cooperation.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Rear Admiral Neil GUY
Director

Encls: - Annex A – SENC Distribution – Premises and Safeguards
- Annex B – SENC Delivery Option Proposed Changes to S-52
- Annex C – Proposed Technical Resolution A3.11
- Annex D – SENC Delivery Option – Questionnaire/Voting Paper

**SENC DISTRIBUTION
Premises and Safeguards**

*(as approved by the 12th CHRIS Meeting, Valparaiso, Chile, October 2000 –
Annex E to the Minutes of CHRIS/12)*

Premises:

- ⚡ If the IHO allows the SENC distribution, this will be a major change in the IHO policy.
- ⚡ The SENC distribution is a voluntary option in addition to the current ENC distribution.
- ⚡ Before a final decision all outstanding technical concerns (e.g. regarding updating) should be solved.
- ⚡ The National Hydrographic Offices decide if they allow the SENC distribution of their data.
- ⚡ The opinions of mariners, maritime safety authorities, OEMs, etc. should be asked on national level.

SENC distribution should include the following safeguards:

Service Providers who are to supply the SENC service must operate under the regulations of the issuing authority (HO or RENC).

- Version control should not be inferior to ENC service.
 - Update mechanism should not be inferior to ECDIS update mechanism.
 - The distributor should maintain a registry of its users.
 - Within the SENC distribution the copyright of ENC should be maintained.
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SENC DELIVERY OPTION: PROPOSED CHANGES TO S-52

*[Changes, as agreed at the 13th CHRIS Meeting, are shown by means of
striked-through (deletions) or shaded (additions) characters]*

3.3 System ENC (SENC)

- (a) The Transfer Standard is designed for the distribution of digital chart data. It is recognized that it is not the most efficient means of storing, manipulating or preparing data for display. Each manufacturer of ECDIS systems may design his own storage formats or data structure to allow its system to meet the performance requirements stated in this specification. The resulting database is called the System ENC (SENC).
- (b) **It is mandatory that official HO data (ENC) be available and** any ECDIS ~~should~~ **must** be capable of accepting and converting official HO data (ENC) to the internal storage structure of the individual ECDIS (System ENC or SENC). Such data includes both that in the ENC and that delivered in digital format to update the ENC. ~~(e) This conversion process should be accomplished in the ECDIS but does not imply real-time processing of HO supplied data. It allows for the one-time conversion of the HO data upon receipt.~~
- (c) ~~The~~ **An** official copy of the HO ~~supplied ENC~~ **data, distributed as an ENC or contained within an externally generated SENC,** is to be kept onboard. ~~From this, the ECDIS generates the "System ENC", which~~ **The SENC generated on board, by ENC to SENC conversion, or ashore** is used for actually operating the ECDIS. Through the same conversion process, official updates are added to the System ENC.

The information content of the SENC should include all that of the ENC corrected by official updates (see Appendix 1).

PROPOSED TECHNICAL RESOLUTION

(as approved by the 13th CHRIS Meeting, Athens, Greece, September 2001)

IHO PUBLICATION M-3

CHAPTER A – SUBJECTS OF GENERAL APPLICATION

SECTION 3 – EXCHANGE, DISTRIBUTION, REPRODUCTION

Technical Resolution A3.11 – ENC/SENC Distribution Option

It is resolved that SENC distribution can be accepted as an option, in addition to direct ENC distribution, providing that the following principles be adhered to:

1. The HO should ensure that the IHO data (ENC) is always available to any user in the S-57 ENC format.
 2. As an option Hydrographic Offices may allow the distribution of their HO data (ENC) in a SENC format.
 3. Distributors who are to supply the SENC service must operate under the regulations of the issuing authority. The onshore ENC to SENC conversion must be performed using type approved software.
 4. The SENC update mechanism should not be inferior to the ENC - ECDIS update mechanism.
 5. The distributor of SENC data should maintain a registry of its users.
 6. The copyright of the ENC data should be maintained.
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Member State:

SENC DELIVERY OPTION

QUESTIONNAIRE / VOTING PAPER

(to be returned to the IHB before 1st December 2001)
E-mail: info@ihb.mc - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

Do you agree with the recommendations of the 13th CHRIS Committee:

- 1) that paragraph 3.3 of IHO Publication S-52 be amended as emphasized in Annex B to IHB CL 50/2001¹?

and

- 2) that the new IHO Technical Resolution A3.11, as in Annex C to IHB CL 50/2001, be adopted?

YES

NO

Comments:
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Name / Signature

Date:

1 If adopted, the revised paragraph 3.3 of S-52 would read as follows:

3.3 System ENC (SENC)

- (a) *The Transfer Standard is designed for the distribution of digital chart data. It is recognised that it is not the most efficient means of storing, manipulating or preparing data for display. Each manufacturer of ECDIS systems may design his own storage formats or data structure to allow its system to meet the performance requirements stated in this specification. The resulting database is called the System ENC (SENC).*
- (b) *It is mandatory that official HO data (ENC) be available and any ECDIS must be capable of accepting and converting the official HO data (ENC) to the internal storage structure of the individual ECDIS (System ENC or SENC). Such data includes both that in the ENC and that delivered in digital format to update the ENC. This conversion process does not imply real-time processing of HO supplied data.*
- (c) *An official copy of the HO data, distributed as an ENC or contained within an externally generated SENC, is to be kept on board. The SENC generated on board, by ENC to SENC conversion, or ashore is used for actually operating the ECDIS. Through the same conversion process, official updates are added to the System ENC.*

The information content of the SENC should include all that of the ENC corrected by official updates (see Appendix 1).