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CIRCULAR LETTER No. 42/2002
27 September 2002

**NEW IHO PUBLICATION M-8: STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE
FOR NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHERS**

Dear Hydrographer,

The Second Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (March 2000) approved the development of a set of **Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers**. The need to establish a body that could develop these Standards was immediately identified.

Following some discussions, it was agreed that the FIG/IHO International Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors (IAB) would be the appropriate body to lead the preparation of these Standards, with assistance from other organizations such as the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and learned institutions running courses on nautical cartography. The IHB recommended that the IHO invite ICA to be the third parent organization of the Board. Therefore, the Board changed its name to FIG/IHO/ICA International Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers, and new Terms of Reference were adopted.

The first draft of the Standards was prepared by Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA (Chile) with the valuable support of the International Maritime Academy, and was submitted for consideration to the International Advisory Board who reviewed it at its XXVth meeting, held in June 2002.

The Draft of the First Edition of the IHO/FIG Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers (IHO Publication M-8) is now available from the IHO Web site.

IHO Member States are kindly requested to send their comments on this draft to the Secretary of the Advisory Board, Captain F. Bermejo, to the IHB by 31 December 2002.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director