

IHB Files S3/3057-S3/3055/A

CIRCULAR LETTER 65/2002
20 December 2002

UPDATING OF IMO ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A.532 (13)

Dear Hydrographer,

Following the approval of the new Regulations of Chapter V of SOLAS, the IHB discussed with IMO the need to update the existing IMO Assembly Resolution A.532 (13), adopted on 17 November 1983 referring to the collection and forwarding of Hydrographic Data.

The outcome of these discussions is the new text provided in Annex A. The old Assembly Resolution is given in Annex B.

You are kindly requested to examine the new text and let the Bureau have any comments you may wish to make **by 6 January 2003**. We have until 10 January 2003 to submit the text to IMO, in order for it to be considered by the next Maritime Safety Committee meeting which is scheduled to take place from 28 May to 6 June 2003.

Thank you for your cooperation.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

(original signed)

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

Annex A: Proposed Draft IMO Assembly Resolution

Annex B: IMO Assembly Resolution A.532(13) adopted on 17 November 1983.

**DRAFT ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A.....(23)
(adopted on November 2003)**

PROVISION OF HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 16(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations concerning maritime safety and marine pollution,

RECALLING FURTHER Resolution A.706(17), as amended by which it adopted the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service,

BEARING IN MIND the provisions of Regulations 2, 9, 13, 19, 27, 31 and 34 of the revised Chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

BEARING IN MIND ALSO the provisions of Regulation 9 of the revised SOLAS Chapter V, under which 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,

RECALLING that by its Resolution 53/32, the United Nations General Assembly (1998) invited States to provide Hydrographic Services needed for the safety at sea and the protection of the marine environment,

RECALLING ALSO that by its Resolution 5 the International Conference on Marine Pollution, 1973, recommended that the Organization continue its work on the development of measures for the minimization of accidental spillages,

RECOGNIZING the close relationship between the safety of navigation and the prevention of pollution from ships,

NOTING that the collection and dissemination of accurate and up-to-date hydrographic information is vital to safe navigation,

APPRECIATING that in many parts of the world waters which have to be navigated by international shipping have not yet been surveyed to modern hydrographic survey standards as established by the IHO or are not regularly surveyed by an established hydrographic service,

REALIZING that port, river, canal, dredging, aids to navigation and other authorities, including regional and local authorities, obtain and receive hydrographic information which could be used to update navigational charts issued by charting authorities,

1. RECOMMENDS Governments to take all necessary measures to arrange for or encourage the prompt transmission of new hydrographic information to the International Hydrographic Bureau or to the hydrographic authorities in those countries which issue charts covering waters off their shores and otherwise ensure the earliest and widest dissemination of hydrographic information following where appropriate the procedures recommended in Resolution A.706(17), as amended;

2. INVITES Governments to:
 - .1 ensure that hydrographic surveying is carried out, as far as possible, adequate to the requirements of safe navigation and according to the hydrographic survey standards established by the IHO;
 - .2 prepare and issue nautical charts, sailing directions, lists of lights, tide tables and other nautical publications, where applicable, satisfying the needs of safe navigation taking into account the appropriate resolutions and recommendations adopted by the IHO;
 - .3 promulgate notices to mariners in order that nautical charts and publications are kept, as far as possible, up to date;
 - .4 provide data management arrangements to support these services;
 - .5 promote, through their national maritime administrations, the use of Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS) together with official Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs);
 - .6 co-operate with other Governments having little or no hydrographic capabilities as appropriate in the collection and dissemination of hydrographic data;
 - .7 promote in consultation with, and with the assistance of, the Organization and the International Hydrographic Organization support for a Government which may request technical assistance in hydrographic matters; and
 - .8 establish Hydrographic Offices, where they do not exist, in consultation with the IHO.
 3. FURTHER INVITES Governments which are not Members of the IHO, to consider joining the IHO.
 4. REVOKES Resolution A.532 (13).
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**IMO ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A.532(13)
(adopted on 17 November 1983)**

COLLECTING AND FORWARDING OF HYDROGRAPHIC DATA

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 16(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations concerning maritime safety and marine pollution,

RECALLING FURTHER Resolution A.419(XI) by which it adopted the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service,

BEARING IN MIND the provisions of Regulations 2, 14 and 20 of Chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974,

RECOGNIZING the close relationship between the safety of navigation and the prevention of pollution from ships,

RECALLING that by its Resolution 5 of the International Conference on Marine Pollution, 1973, recommended that the Organization continue its work on the development of measures for the minimization of accidental spillages,

NOTING that the collection and dissemination of accurate and up-to-date hydrographic information is vital to safe navigation,

APPRECIATING that in many parts of the world waters which have to be navigated by international shipping have not yet been surveyed to modern hydrographic survey standards or are not regularly surveyed by an established hydrographic service,

REALIZING that port, river, canal, dredging, aids to navigation and other authorities, including regional and local authorities, obtain and receive hydrographic information which could be used to update navigational charts issued by charting authorities,

1. RECOMMENDS Governments to take all necessary measures to arrange for or encourage the prompt transmission of new hydrographic information to the International Hydrographic Bureau or to the hydrographic authorities in those countries which issue charts covering waters off their shores and otherwise ensure the earliest and widest dissemination of hydrographic information following where appropriate the procedures recommended in Resolution A.419(XI);

2. INVITES Governments to:

- (a) conduct hydrographic surveys to modern hydrographic standards;
 - (b) co-operate with other Governments having little or no hydrographic capabilities as appropriate in the collection and dissemination of hydrographic data;
 - (c) promote in consultation with, and with the assistance of, the Organization and the International Hydrographic Organization support for a Government which may request technical assistance in hydrographic matters.
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