

S3/8151/CHRIS

CIRCULAR LETTER 40/2003
20 June 2003

S-57 EDITION 3.0 - ENC PRODUCT SPECIFICATION
Termination of Validity

References: 1) IHB Circular Letter 52/2000, dated 14 December 2000.
2) IHB Circular Letter 60/2002, dated 4 December 2002.

Dear Hydrographer,

Circular Letter 52/2000 announced the release of S-57 Edition 3.1. It explained that the differences between S-57 Edition 3.0 and Edition 3.1 only involved additional attributes that were relatively minor. However, it was recognized that, because of the need to amend their production software, certain hydrographic offices would continue to produce ENC's conforming to Edition 3.0 for some time. As a consequence, it was agreed that both Edition 3.0 and Edition 3.1 ENC's would be valid until further notice.

Circular Letter 60/2002 announced that:

- a) S-57 Edition 3.1 (and Edition 3.0) had been frozen.
- b) S-57 Edition 3.0 would cease to be valid from December 2004.
- c) In order that S-57 can support all types of hydrographic data, work had commenced on developing S-57 Edition 4.0. The target date for completion was 2004. This has since been amended to 2006.
- d) Even after Edition 4.0 is published, Edition 3.1 will remain valid for as long as required, for the benefit of Member States who wish to continue to produce and use ENC's conforming to Edition 3.1.

The purpose of this CL is to seek Member States' confirmation that Edition 3.0 ENC's and ENC updates can cease to be valid after December 2004. Member States are requested to inform the IHB accordingly using the response form in Annex A, so as to reach the Bureau **no later than 30 September 2003**.

It is believed that all ECDIS currently available can now read Edition 3.1 ENC's. However, there may be ECDIS at sea which have not yet been upgraded to read

Edition 3.1 ENC's. We therefore request Hydrographic Offices that have close contacts with ECDIS manufacturers to ask them if the disappearance of Edition 3.0 ENC's would create a problem. If it would create a problem, could they please indicate the date (to be mentioned on Annex A) by which they believe all such ECDIS will have received the necessary upgrade to use Edition 3.1 ENC's and updates.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

(original signed)

Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR
Director

Encl: Annex A – Response Form

**S-57 EDITION 3.0 - ENC PRODUCT SPECIFICATION
Termination of Validity**

RESPONSE FORM

(to be returned to the IHB by 30 September 2003)

E-Mail: info@ihb.mc - Fax:+377 93 10 81 40

MEMBER STATE:

1. Is the planned date of December 2004 for the termination of validity of Edition 3.0 ENCs and ENC updates acceptable to your HO?

YES

NO

Comments :
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.....
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2. Are you aware of any problems that the above date for termination of validity would create for ECDIS manufacturers with whom you have close contacts?

YES

NO

Comments :.....
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Date: Signature: