

IHB File No. S3/8152

CIRCULAR LETTER 50/2004
13 July 2004

EVALUATION OF THE USE OF ECDIS AND ENC DEVELOPMENT

References:

- A. CL 21/2004 dated 22 March 2004
- B. CL 34/2004 dated 9 June 2004
- C. CL 41/2004 dated 28 June 2004
- D. CL 44/2004 dated 1 July 2004

Dear Hydrographer,

In the above Circular Letter reference A, the IHB sought Member States views on two papers submitted by Australia and Norway to the 78th session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). In the Circular Letter reference B, updated by references C and D, the IHB reported the responses to reference A made by Member States. A submission by France to the MSC was enclosed as Annex B to reference B. In reference B the IHB reported that MSC 78 had forwarded all three papers for consideration by the 50th session of the sub-committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV) under the new task "Evaluation of the use of ECDIS and ENC Development".

The 50th session of NAV was held at IMO Headquarters in London from 5th to 9th July 2004. Australia, Norway and France introduced their papers and the IHO reported the views of IHO Member States as summarised in references B, C and D. Following a preliminary discussion NAV 50 decided to establish a Correspondence Group to pursue this task and report to NAV 51 in 2005. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Correspondence Group are attached at Annex A. Norway agreed to co-ordinate the work of the Correspondence Group.

During the discussions it was accepted that ENCs are superior to RNCs and therefore of vital importance to safe navigation especially in critical and complex areas. Nevertheless, in certain other areas, RNCs may, for the time being until ENCs are available, be adequate for safe navigation. NAV 50 invited the IHO to conduct a survey of all Maritime States to ascertain whether they accept the use of Raster Navigational Charts (RNC) for the purposes of Safety of Navigation within all, or limited waters under their jurisdiction as indicated in the 3rd bullet point of the TOR of the Correspondence Group. The IMO will assist IHO in obtaining information from IMO Member States who are not members of the IHO.

At bullet point 5 in the TOR, the Correspondence Group is tasked to consider what instruments might be required to monitor the availability of official digital charts and paper chart back up requirements and the means of making this information available to interested parties. Preliminary discussion amongst members of the Correspondence Group at NAV 50

suggested that this might take the form of a world-wide chart catalogue in which ENC, RNC and paper charts accepted by Maritime States will be shown. The Directing Committee believes that if such a catalogue is accepted as the appropriate instrument by the IMO, this catalogue should be established and maintained by the IHO on behalf of the IMO for the following reasons:

- a. These charts are produced by the Hydrographic Offices of IHO Member States.
- b. This will strengthen cooperation between IHO and IMO and will raise IHO visibility within IMO.
- c. This will bring the IHO into direct contact with IMO Member States which are not members of the IHO with the obvious benefit of promoting the work and significance of the IHO.

Member States are requested to complete the questionnaire at Annex B and return it to the IHB by **31st October 2004** in order for the IHB to inform the Correspondence Group and NAV 51 appropriately. Information should be provided in consultation with national Maritime Safety Agencies (MSA) in order that their views are properly reflected.

You are also invited to bring to the attention of your MSA the attached TOR and questionnaire and to provide comments, should you so wish, in consultation with your MSA on the other issues in the TOR.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

Annex A. TOR for the NAV Correspondence Group on 'Evaluation of the use of ECDIS and ENC Development'.

Annex B. Response Form.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON SAFETY OF NAVIGATION
50th session (5 - 9 July 2004)

NAV 50 Correspondence Group

Evaluation of the use of ECDIS and ENC development

Draft Terms of Reference

The correspondence group should give consideration to documents MSC 78/24/3, MSC 8/24/17, MSC 78/24/18 and exchange preliminary views on the following subjects:

- Conditions for possible introduction of ECDIS carriage requirements;
 - schedule for phase in;
 - ship types affected;
- Possible authorisation of use of ECDIS in RCDS mode without a requirement to carry an appropriate portfolio of paper charts;
- Indication of acceptance of RNCs by individual coastal States based on the survey to be conducted by IHO as requested by NAV 50;
- Definition of, and/or criteria for, the term "appropriate portfolio of paper charts";
 - when ECDIS is used in the RCDS mode;
 - as ECDIS back up;
- Instruments required to monitor the promulgation of official digital charts and paper charts related to ECDIS operation, and provide this information to interested parties;
- Consider possible implications for IMO instruments;

and submit a report of its deliberations to NAV 51.

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EVALUATION OF THE USE OF ECDIS AND ENC DEVELOPMENT

Response Form

(to be returned to the IHB info@ihb.mc by 31 October 2004)

Member State:

In order for the IHO to prepare the report requested by the IMO and to inform the Correspondence Group established by IMO NAV 50 appropriately you are kindly requested to answer the following questions:

Does your Maritime Safety Agency (MSA) accept the use of ECDIS in RCDS mode for navigation in all, part or none of the waters under their jurisdiction? Please tick the appropriate box. If the answer is 'ALL' or 'PART' please indicate the requirements for paper chart back up. If the answer is 'PART' please provide details of the areas concerned.

ALL PART NONE

Additional information:
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What are your views regarding the creation of a world-wide chart catalogue for ENC's, RNC's and paper charts used as back up and for the IHO to undertake the responsibility of establishing and maintaining it on behalf of the IMO?
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Any other comments?
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Date: Signature: Member State: