

**CIRCULAR LETTER No. 57/2004**  
**1 October 2004**

**INDUSTRY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
IHO DATA PROTECTION SCHEME**

Dear Hydrographer,

Recently, a small group of OEMs and Data Servers met to discuss a uniform method of implementing how ECDIS systems process S-63 protected ENC that could be adopted industry-wide. They have termed this implementation "S-63 extended" or "S-63x." They explicitly mention on their website, "S-63x" would be an additional layer of specifications to the IHO S-63 and S-57 Standards implemented by OEM and ENC distributors.

The Chairman of the Primar Stavanger Advisory Committee, on behalf of several Hydrographic Offices participating in this RENC, has written to the IHB expressing concern that some issues dealt with by this *ad hoc* industry gathering may more appropriately be the purview of an IHO committee, if brought to its attention. If indeed the activity has no implications on S-63, care must be taken to ensure that this gathering and its output are not viewed as sanctioned by the IHO. The expeditious implementation of S-63 must remain a paramount goal.

The IHB as the Data Protection Scheme Administrator sent an observer to the above mentioned industry group meeting, to better understand the issues and proposed actions. At this meeting, it was suggested, and the IHB agreed, that the IHB host the next meeting of this group to facilitate broader attendance. This next meeting is scheduled for 26-27 October 2004 at the IHB in Monaco.

The report of the Data Protection Scheme Working Group (DPSWG) to CHRIS 16 (Ottawa, 28-31 May 2004) noted the activity of this industry gathering, as an initiative that may require monitoring and further liaison. At a subsequent DPSWG meeting (Monaco, 22-23 June 2004), the chair of this industry group informed the DPSWG of the efforts to date, future plans and the possible impact on the work of the DPSWG due to these industry initiatives. IHB was tasked to include a link from the IHO website to the "S-63x" website. The industry group was requested to ensure their efforts and website clearly noted that these are not IHO sanctioned activities.

The IHB will present these concerns raised by a number of Primar Stavanger HOs for discussion at the upcoming meeting, in which Member States may participate if they wish.

Upon the conclusion of this meeting, the IHB will inform Member States and the Chairman of CHRIS, of any items of interest and to what extent further IHB/IHO involvement is warranted.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR  
Director