

**THIS CIRCULAR LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE**

IHB File No. S3/8151/CHRIS

**CIRCULAR LETTER 69/2004  
15 October 2004**

**IHO SUBMISSION TO IMO REGARDING  
ECDIS PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

- References:
- 1) IHO Special Publication S-52, *Specifications for Chart Content and Display Aspects of ECDIS*
  - 2) IMO Resolutions A.817, as amended by MSC.64 (67) and MSC.86 (70); *Performance Standards for Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS)*
  - 3) IHO Special Publication S-63, *IHO Data Protection Scheme*
  - 4) IEC Publication 61174, *Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS) – Operational and Performance Requirements, Methods of Testing and Required Test Results.*

Dear Hydrographer,

The Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems (CHRIS), at its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting (Monaco, May 2003), commissioned a review of Special Publication S-52, *Specifications for Chart Content and Display Aspects of ECDIS*, with a view to preparing a new edition. At its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting (Ottawa, May 2004), CHRIS recommended that S-52 be revised by:

- Removing all information already covered by the IMO Performance Standards for ECDIS or other IHO standards, i.e. IHO Special Publication S-57, *The IHO Transfer Standard for Digital Hydrographic Data*, or that could be transferred to other IHO standards, i.e. IHO Special Publication S-32, *Hydrographic Dictionary*;
- Removing all information that does not pertain to the display aspects of hydrographic information presented in an ECDIS after this information is hosted by the standard defining operational requirements for ECDIS as navigation devices, i.e. the IMO Performance Standards for ECDIS (IMO PS).

Application of these revisions results in the “track change” versions of S-52 and the IMO PS located on the IHO Website ([www.iho.shom.fr](http://www.iho.shom.fr) > Committees > CHRIS).

It should be stressed that the above amendments **do not** change the substance of the package formed by the IHO ECDIS-related Standards and the IMO PS, and therefore the applicable IEC Test Standard 61174. The changes focus S-52 on the display aspects of hydrographic information contained in an

ENC data set and refer to the other relevant references for information outside this focus. These changes will make the maintenance of all ECDIS-related standards simpler and more logical. As the precise changes to S-52 and their effective date are dependent on the approval by IMO of the changes to the IMO PS, we are only seeking your approval for a submission to IMO recommending such changes. Approval by Member States of a new edition of S-52 will be sought after IMO has acted on the IHO submission to them and their actions reflected in the new amendment to the IMO PS.

Additionally, in November 2003, the IHO adopted S-63, *IHO Data Protection Scheme*. While most Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) of ECDIS are complying with S-63, this compliance is neither tested nor mandated as S-63 is not addressed in the IMO PS and, therefore, in IEC 61174. To rectify this omission, the IHB recommends that the IMO PS be amended to include S-63 as a reference document in appendix 1 and the following statement added as new paragraph:

*"4.9 ECDIS should be capable of accepting an encrypted ENC conforming to the IHO Data Protection Scheme<sup>1</sup>."*

*"IHO Special Publication S-63(see appendix 1)."*

As the addition of this statement does constitute a material change to the IMO PS and, subsequently, to IEC61174, it is expected that this change may require study by an IMO subsidiary body. Again, the actual change, if any, will depend on the outcome of such a study and we seek only your approval for this submission to IMO.

Submissions of the nature above must reach IMO by mid-December 2004 to be considered at the May 2005 Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) meeting. Submissions after that date would be not considered before the May 2006 MSC meeting. The submissions may also be referred to the Navigation Subcommittee (NAV) for discussion or study. Your prompt attention to this matter is requested in order to progress this initiative in a timely manner. **Please complete the voting form and return it to the IHB by 10 December 2004.**

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

*(original signed)*

Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR  
Director

Encl: Annex A – Voting Form

**IHO SUBMISSION TO IMO REGARDING  
ECDIS PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

**Voting Form**

*(to be returned to the IHB by 10 December 2004*

*E-mail: [info@ihb.mc](mailto:info@ihb.mc) - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)*

Member State: .....

1. Do you agree that IMO Resolutions A.817, as amended by MSC.64 (67) and MSC.86 (70); *Performance Standards for Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS)* should be amended to include operational aspects of ECDIS currently contained in IHO Special Publication S-52, *Specifications for Chart Content and Display Aspects of ECDIS*, as recommended by the CHRIS Committee?

YES

NO

Comments:

2. Do you agree that IMO Resolution A.817, as amended by MSC.64 (67) and MSC.86 (70), *Performance Standards for Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS)* should be amended to include the provisions for the IHO Special Publication S-63, *IHO Data Protection Scheme*?

YES

NO

Comments:

Date: .....

Signature: .....