



IHB File No. S3/8162

CIRCULAR LETTER No. 84/2004  
7 December 2004

**INDUSTRY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
IHO DATA PROTECTION SCHEME S-63**

Reference: IHO Circular Letter 57/2004, dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004.

Dear Hydrographer,

Circular Letter 57/2004 reported on the ongoing work by a group of ENC Data Servers and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to develop an auxiliary industry specification, that they have called "S63x", to provide additional flexibility for improving S-63 protected ENC services and make the distribution and handling of ENCs more user-friendly.

As announced in the same CL, the "S63x" WG met at the IHB on 26-27 October 2004. The meeting focused on the review of "S63x" to complete Version 1.0 of the industry standard, which is planned for release in 2005. It is recalled and stressed that "S63x" is a purely industry undertaking and that, therefore, any resulting industry standard should not be viewed as sanctioned by the IHO.

In advance of the meeting, the IHB had expressed concern to the Chairman of this group (Mr G. Büttgenbach, SevenCs, Germany) that some portions of their website ([www.s63x.org](http://www.s63x.org)) may appear ambiguous to readers, with respect to IHO involvement, and asked that these ambiguities be rectified. This, which was reiterated at the meeting, related in particular to:

- the name "S63x" and its possibly misleading association with the IHO Data Protection Scheme S-63;
- the erroneous use of the term "non-official ENCs" to name some commercially produced vector chart data; and
- the inclusion of references to IHO liability.

As a result, corrections and clarifications have subsequently been made to the "S63x" website except for the name itself. The Chairman said he would defer such an amendment to allow time for further consultation with industry members. It is hoped that this will soon happen.

The IHO will continue monitoring these issues via the Data Protection Scheme Working Group (DPSWG) of CHRIS. Additional details on Version 1.0 of "S63x" can be found on the above website.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR  
Director