



IHB File No. S1/5014

CIRCULAR LETTER 88/2005  
31 August 2005

### FACTS ABOUT CHARTS AND CARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS

Dear Hydrographer,

At the IMO Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation meeting this year (NAV 51) the President, along with the heads of the Norwegian and UK Hydrographic Offices gave a presentation to publicise a document 'Facts about Charts and Carriage Requirements'. The document was created by two Regional ENC Coordinating Centres (RENCs) Primar-Stavanger and IC-ENC in an attempt to clarify the confusion over the regulations surrounding the use of ECDIS to meet SOLAS chart carriage requirements. Feedback provided by mariners to the RENCs had previously indicated that there was significant confusion on issues such as the use of Raster Navigational Charts (RNCs), acceptable back-up solutions and training requirements and that these uncertainties were a barrier to the uptake of ECDIS. It is hoped that the document, which can be downloaded free of charge from either [www.primar-stavanger.org](http://www.primar-stavanger.org) or [www.ic-enc.org](http://www.ic-enc.org) websites, goes some way to clarify these issues.

The document has been endorsed by eight European regulatory authorities and it contains, as an annex, a compendium of national requirements from 13 countries. The authors are in the process of updating the document and are seeking, through IHO and IMO, your assistance to extend it to include your national requirements within the compendium. They would also be grateful for any other feedback that you may have on the document and an indication as to whether you would like to endorse it. A questionnaire is attached to assist in gathering information in a consistent manner and the Directing Committee would be grateful if you could complete this and return it to the contact address given.

The authors will seek confirmation from each national authority that the information that they have supplied has been accurately transferred to the document prior to publication. The Directing Committee is sure that you will agree that it is important that we provide the mariner with full, up to date, and consistent information and we thank you in advance for your assistance.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS  
President

Enclosure: Facts about Charts and Carriage Requirements Questionnaire

## IHO MS Questionnaire on the use of ENC's and Chart Carriage Requirements

Reference: Circular Letter 88/2005 dated 31 August 2005

### Background:

In July 2002 SOLAS Chapter 5 was amended and for the first time included provision for the use of an electronic means of navigation to meet SOLAS chart carriage requirements. Such provision is included specifically in SOLAS V Regulation 19.2.1.4. Details of ECDIS (Electronic Chart Display and Information System) and its use are contained in the IMO ECDIS Performance Standard A817(19); this specifies equipment capability and addresses issues such as back-up and use of charts.

SOLAS Chapter 5 Regulation 19.2.1.4 states:

*nautical charts and nautical publications to plan and display the ship's route for the intended voyage and to plot and monitor positions throughout the voyage; an Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) may be accepted as meeting the chart carriage requirements of this subparagraph;*

*2.1.5 back-up arrangements to meet the functional requirements of subparagraph 2.1.4, if this function is partly or fully fulfilled by electronic means;\**

*\* An appropriate folio of paper nautical charts may be used as a back-up arrangement for ECDIS. Other back-up arrangements for ECDIS are acceptable (see appendix 6 to resolution A.817(19), as amended).*

IMO ECDIS Performance Standard A817(19) states:

*Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) means a navigation information system which, with adequate back up arrangements, can be accepted as complying with the up-to-date chart required by regulation V/19 & V/27 of the 1974 SOLAS Convention.*

Whilst the intention of these regulations is clearly to allow the use of ECDIS to meet chart carriage requirements there is still confusion on some issues. For example it is unclear if the word 'may' in Regulation 19.2.1.4 means the use of ECDIS to meet chart carriage requirements is at the choice of the mariner or at the discretion of the Flag State. In addition, there is still uncertainty within the different national maritime safety authorities on matters related to the use of RNCs, ECDIS backup and ECDIS training; as a result the mariner does not have a clear picture of the requirements should he wish to use ECDIS for primary navigation.

To help clarify the picture two Regional ENC Coordinating Centres (Primar Stavanger and IC-ENC) have joined forces, compiled, with the assistance of BIMCO, the 'Facts about Charts and Carriage Requirements' document. The document may be downloaded from the RENC websites; [www.primar-stavanger.org](http://www.primar-stavanger.org) or [www.ic-enc.org](http://www.ic-enc.org).

To assist in updating and extending the document you are kindly requested to complete the accompanying questionnaire. An electronic version of the form is available for download from the above websites if this is preferred. Please send completed forms to:

Chris Smith  
UK Hydrographic Office  
Taunton TA1 2DN  
United Kingdom

Or email the electronic copy to [factsdocument@ihb.mc](mailto:factsdocument@ihb.mc)

Thank you for your assistance

## Questionnaire on the use of ENC's and Chart Carriage Requirements

### Part 1: Acceptance of ENC's and ECDIS for primary navigation:

a) **Primary navigation with ECDIS:** Based on the new SOLAS V Regulation 19.2.1.4 has your responsible national body officially announced that ECDIS, when used in accordance with the provisions set out in A817(19) (e.g. with adequate back up arrangements and using ENC's), is accepted as complying with chart carriage requirements? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If answer to a) is No:

i) Do you have any plans to make such an announcement? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If the answer to a) is Yes:

i) Is permission given to your flag registered vessels on a ship by ship basis or is it for all registered vessels? *By ship* \_\_\_ *All* \_\_\_

ii) Do you provide vessels with any certification with regard to their use of ECDIS, for use in Port State control inspections? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

iii) Have you informed IMO of your position on acceptance of ECDIS (e.g. by SLS notice) or issued any national notice for your registered shipping? If so please give a reference. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

*Comments:*

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b) **Back-up arrangements:** Have you provided guidance to your flag registered vessels on what solutions you consider acceptable as a back-up to ECDIS? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If answer to b) is Yes; which of the following back-up options do you consider acceptable?

i) a second ECDIS using ENC's, and with an independent power source, Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

ii) a second ECDIS using official Raster Navigational Charts (official RNC's), with an independent power source: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

iii) sufficient paper charts covering the operational area: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

iv) other – please specify

*Comments:*

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c) **Training:**

i) Do you have specific requirements with regard to ECDIS training on your flag registered vessels that use ECDIS for primary navigation? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

ii) Have you issued any guidance to your flag registered vessels on the need for ECDIS training in order to satisfy general STCW requirements Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

*Comments:*

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## Part 2 : Acceptance of the use of RNCs in ECDIS

Where ENC's are available they must be used in ECDIS to meet chart carriage requirements. For areas where ENC coverage is not yet available the IMO ECDIS Performance Standard (as amended in 1998) allows the use of official Raster Nautical Charts (RNCs) in ECDIS to meet chart carriage requirements for navigation; however when operating in this manner 'ECDIS equipment should be used together with an appropriate portfolio of up-to-date paper charts'

- a) Do you allow your flag registered vessels to use RNCs in ECDIS to meet chart carriage requirements in areas where ENC's are not available? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If answer to a) is No

- i) Please outline your reason for this:

If answer to a) is Yes

- i) Is permission given to your flag registered vessels on a ship by ship basis or for all registered vessels? By ship \_\_\_ All vessels \_\_\_  
ii) Have you issued any guidance on the definition of 'an appropriate portfolio' of charts? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
iii) Do you provide vessels with a certificate for use in Port State control inspections? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
iv) Have you informed IMO of your position on acceptance of the use of RNCs in ECDIS or issued any national notice for your registered shipping? If so please give a reference. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Comments:

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## Part 3 Acceptance of the use private chart data in ECDIS:

Private chart data (i.e. chart data that has been produced by a commercial company and is not issued officially by or on the authority of a Government, authorized Hydrographic Office or other relevant government institution) does not satisfy the requirements for chart carriage under SOLAS (see SOLAS V Regulation 2.2 and 19.2.1.4). Where private chart data is used in ECDIS a full set of official paper charts should be carried and used as the primary means of navigation.

- a) Do you think that this situation is clear to your flag registered vessels? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

- b) Do you provide guidance to your flag registered vessels on the use of private chart data in ECDIS? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Comments:

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## Part IV Endorsement of the document

- a) Do you wish to be listed in the document as endorsing it? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

- b) Are you willing to allow the information given above to be used in the compendium to the document? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

(NB: the authors will provide you with a copy of the text to be entered for your agreement prior to publication).

- c) Please provide any further comments here:

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Name:

On behalf of National Administration of:

Date: