



IHB File No. S3/8151/CHRIS

CIRCULAR LETTER 93/2005
23 September 2005

CHANGE OF NAME: S-57 EDITION 4.0 TO BECOME S-100

- Ref: 1) Circular Letter 83/2004 of 7 December 2004
2) Circular Letter 22/2005 of 23 February 2005
3) Circular Letter 26/2005 of 10 March 2005

Dear Hydrographer,

This letter is to inform Member States of a recent name change to the data transfer standard (formerly known as S-57 Edition 4.0) being developed by the IHO Transfer Standards Maintenance and Applications Development Working Group (TSMAD) as part of the IHO Work Programme. An explanation of this revised transfer standard, which is being modeled on contemporary ISO TC211 geospatial standards, has already been published by the IHB (CLs 83/2004 and 26/2005 refer) in an information paper that can be found at [http://www.iho.shom.fr/ECDIS/S57 Ed4 Information Paper ver1.1.pdf](http://www.iho.shom.fr/ECDIS/S57%20Ed4%20Information%20Paper%20ver1.1.pdf). The change in name described below is intended to avoid continuing confusion between the S-57 Transfer Standard and the ENC Product Specification.

Many people regard the S-57 standard to be the same as the ENC Product Specification, while in fact the ENC is actually a product specification based on S-57. In particular, the use of the same name has led to recent concern and confusion amongst the HOs and ECDIS Stakeholders regarding the announcement of tentative dates for the introduction of the next edition of the transfer standard (S-57 Edition 4.0) and any new ENC Product Specification based on this new edition (see referenced CLs).

An ECDIS Stakeholders Forum was held recently in conjunction with the 17th meeting of the Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems (CHRIS). This well-attended meeting canvassed the views of the wide range of Stakeholders and confirmed that a change of name was warranted. Stakeholders included the CHRIS, ECDIS manufacturers, data distributors, and data validation and data production software developers. It became clear that adopting an ISO naming convention was the best solution.

Accordingly, CHRIS has decided that the S-57 Edition 4.0 (currently still under development) will henceforth be known as S-100. The ENC Product Specification based on S-100 will be known as S-101. Other Product Specifications will follow in an S-10x series as they are required.

S-57 edition 4.0	→	S-100
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S-57 Edition 4.0 ENC Product Specification	→	S-101
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The timetable for the existing work items in the CHRIS Work Programme covering S-57 Edition 4.0 (now known as S-100) and the S-57 Edition 4.0 ENC Product Specification (now known as S-101) was also reviewed by the CHRIS. Taking into account feedback and discussion from the ECDIS

Stakeholders Forum, the following revised dates have now been included in the CHRIS Work Programme:

S-100 available late 2007.

S-101 The S-101 ENC product specification is not expected to be published before 2012.

The revised Transfer Standard (S-100) will be available for use towards the end of 2007. In addition to better meeting the needs of Member States, it will be used by a wide range of interested organizations outside the IHO. For example, the Inland ECDIS Harmonization Group has informed CHRIS that it intends to use S-100 as the basis for producing Inland ENCs in Europe, Russia and North America.

In the meantime, it should be stressed that ENCs created using the new Transfer Standard are not expected until after 2012. This will ensure continued stability in the developing ECDIS market and will assist long-term planning both for HOs and the ECDIS Industry. In addition, CHRIS has also been informed by TSMAD that S-101 will retain much of the current ISO/IEC 8211 encapsulation used in current ENCs. This means that the eventual transition from S-57 ENC to S-101 ENC should be smoother than previously expected. In any case, early development of S-100 well ahead of the introduction of S-101 will allow a full assessment and testing to be performed.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Barbor', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the signature.

Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR
Director