



IHB File No. S3/8151/CHRIS

CIRCULAR LETTER 94/2005
26 September 2005

**DEVELOPMENT OF S-57 EDITION 3.1.1 TO ACCOMMODATE NEW
IMO REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN CHARTED FEATURES**

Ref: Circular Letter 93/2005 of 23 September 2005.

Dear Hydrographer,

At the 17th meeting of the Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems (CHRIS) it was agreed that ENCs based on the next major revision of the IHO Data Transfer Standard (S-57) will not occur before 2012. However, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) recently adopted measures that require new chart features, such as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas and Archipelagic Sea Lanes. These features cannot be adequately encoded in an ENC using S-57 Edition 3.1. As a result, the CHRIS has asked its Transfer Standard Maintenance and Application Development Working Group (TSMAD) to develop a minor revision to the S-57 standard to accommodate the new requirements. This revision (S-57 Edition 3.1.1) will also add *placeholders* that can be used to accommodate any other new features that IMO may require in the future.

Use of S-57 Edition 3.1.1 will be optional for hydrographic offices. It is only necessary to use 3.1.1 for those cells that require the new features designated by IMO. If a cell is issued using 3.1.1, the corresponding 3.1 cell can be withdrawn. **It will not be necessary for HO's to produce and maintain cells in both editions.**

An ECDIS Stakeholders Forum was held in conjunction with CHRIS/17. This well-attended meeting canvassed the views of the wide range of Stakeholders to ensure that any possible adverse impacts were identified. Input from the Forum was used by the CHRIS to make decisions on the best course of action. CHRIS was made aware that incorporating the relatively simple changes in both ENC manufacturing and validation software could be easily achieved. Similarly, for ECDIS equipment to correctly display the 3.1.1 features, only a minor software upgrade will be required. Both software upgrades should be relatively inexpensive.

In the event that a 3.1.1 cell is loaded into an ECDIS that has not been upgraded, any new 3.1.1 features will be shown as "*Unknown Objects*" and displayed using the ECDIS "?" symbol. Further information about these features is available in the '*Information*' attribute. But the mariner must obtain this using the ECDIS "*Pick Report*" functionality. As a result, the data is available but is not presented intuitively. As such, upgrading ECDIS equipment to 3.1.1 to correctly display the new IMO requirements is highly desirable.

In order to symbolize the new 3.1.1 features, minor revisions to the ECDIS Presentation Library will be required. TSMAD will work closely with the Colours and Symbols Maintenance Working Group (C&SMWG) to achieve this.

The CHRIS has instructed TSMAD that the changes they develop for this minor revision should not result in a requirement for ECDIS equipment to be re-tested for type-approval. TSMAD's work on the revision (3.1.1) is scheduled to be completed and presented to CHRIS at its 18th meeting in September 2006.

In order to inform the maritime community, information and advice on this change will be promulgated through IMO NAV Safety of Navigation Circular that will be further promulgated by national maritime authorities. When required, this will be supplemented by national Notices to Mariners.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Barbor', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR
Director