



IHB File No. S3/3055

**CIRCULAR LETTER 10/2006
24 January 2006**

VOLUNTARY IMO MEMBER STATE AUDIT SCHEME

- References:
- a) IHB CL 54/2005 dated 25th May 2005
 - b) IHB CL 113/2005 dated 14th November 2005

Dear Hydrographer,

The IHB would like to thank the following 10 Member States who provided additional comments on the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme in response to Reference B: Algeria, Chile, Ecuador, France, Japan, Norway, Peru, Russian Federation, Tunisia and the United Kingdom. Comments provided are included at Annex A.

A modified text based on the comments provided is attached at Annex B. The IHB will now prepare a submission to MSC 81 using the text at Annex B.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Maratos', written over a light blue horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

Annex A: MS Comments
Annex B: Draft Guidance

Algeria

After having studied the draft guidance in Annex B of CL113/2005, the SHFN considers that it includes all the information necessary for an objective and complete evaluation of the Hydrographic Service concerned. Therefore, we believe that this guidance, as a whole, may be submitted to the IMO.

Chile

This is to inform you that we agree with the IHO proposition of Annex “B”. Chile does not have any additional comments.

Ecuador

Ecuador provided a completed questionnaire and the IHB takes this to signify agreement with the text provided at Reference B.

France

Under the heading “GENERAL”:

Insert between paragraphs 3 and 4, the following question:

- Is the responsibility for providing hydrographic services officially assigned by your government, by decree or any other legal text, to an organization within your country?

Add a final paragraph:

- If you do provide hydrographic services, are those related to safety of navigation accredited with quality assurance certification (e.g. ISO 9001)? If yes, what does the certification apply to? (surveys, charting, broadcasting of nautical information)?

Under the heading “SOLAS Regulations V/4 and V/9”

1. Hydrographic Surveys, sub-para. c.

To make this question explicit and similar to the one asked for Nautical Charting, instead of:

- c. Do you conduct hydrographic surveys in cooperation with other countries? If yes, please provide details.

It should read: c. Have you established bilateral agreements with other countries for hydrographic surveys? If yes, please provide details.

Comment by IHB: Included.

Japan

Since it seems that all items necessary to IMO Audit Scheme for SOLAS Regulations V/9 are not included in the S-55, I propose to add the following items to the guidance.

Items: Publications, Notice to Mariners
(SOLAS Regulations V/9.1. Contracting Governments undertake to arrange for the collection and compilation of hydrographic data and the publication, dissemination and keeping up to date of all nautical information necessary for safe navigation.)

Comment by IHB: An additional question has been included at Section 2 Nautical Charting point b.

Norway

No comments. Norway agrees with the guidance provided at Annex B

Peru

I inform you that this Directorate agrees with the guidance project provided for the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme, as we esteem that it will be useful and profitable for the countries requiring a Voluntary Audit.

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation provided a completed questionnaire and the IHB takes this to signify agreement with the text provided at Reference B.

Tunisia

The THOS deems that the proposed voluntary audit scheme is complete and covers all activities a hydrographic office might have.

The THOS thinks also that a question in paragraph 1 under SOLAS regulations V/4 and V/9 rubric of the audit scheme would be more explanatory if expressed as follows:

List by type (port, coastal, high seas) how many hydrographic vessels you have?

Comment by IHB: This question has now been removed as proposed by the United Kingdom

United Kingdom

The UKHO supports the guidance given by IHB at Annex B to CL 113/2005. However we would suggest the removal of the first question in the section SOLAS regulations V'4 and V/9.1. Hydrographic Surveys i.e. "How many hydrographic vessels do you have?" We feel this question is redundant, since the number of survey ships has nothing to do with effective output of surveys to meet SOLAS V obligations. Removal of this question would match this section more logically with those on chart production and MSI.

Comment by IHB: This question has been removed

GENERAL

1. Are you a member of the IHO?
2. Are you a member, or associate member, of an IHO Regional Hydrographic Commission?
3. Do you have a Hydrographic Office? If not is there another Governmental, or non-Governmental, Agency with responsibility for hydrographic matters?
4. Is the responsibility for providing hydrographic services officially assigned by your government, by decree or any other legal text, to an organization within your country?
5. Do you require Capacity Building Support to help develop your hydrographic services? If the answer to this question is yes please indicate in which of the following areas support is required: Hydrographic Surveys, Production of paper and/or electronic charts, Promulgation of MSI, Training.
6. If you provide hydrographic services, are those related to safety of navigation accredited with quality assurance certification (e.g. ISO 9001)? If yes, what does the certification apply to (surveys, charting, broadcasting nautical information)?

SOLAS regulations V/4 and V/9

1. Hydrographic Surveys
 - a. Do you conduct hydrographic surveys? If yes do you comply with the IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys (S-44)?
 - b. Do you conduct hydrographic surveys in cooperation with other countries, through bilateral agreements or otherwise? If yes please provide details.
 - c. Do you contract out hydrographic surveys to commercial companies? If yes do these surveys comply with S-44?
 - d. Please complete the following information relating to the status of hydrographic surveys as reported in IHO Publication S-55 "Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide" – 3rd Edition. Comments should be added wherever appropriate:

A1 Percentage of national waters, 0 – 200m in depth, which is adequately surveyed: %.

A2 Percentage of national waters, greater than 200m in depth, which is adequately surveyed: %.

B1 Percentage of national waters, 0 – 200m in depth, which requires resurveying at a larger scale or to modern standards: %.

B2 Percentage of national waters, greater than 200m in depth, which requires resurveying at a larger scale or to modern standards: %.

C1 Percentage of national waters, 0 – 200m in depth, which have never been systematically surveyed: %.

C2 Percentage of national waters, greater than 200m in depth, which have never been systematically surveyed: %.

2. Nautical Charting

- a. Do you produce nautical paper charts, RNC s, ENC s, and nautical publications as defined in paragraph 2 of SOLAS Regulation V/2?
- b. If the answer to a. is Yes do you maintain these by issuing NtM / ER?
- c. Do you have bi-lateral agreement with other countries for the production of nautical charts? If yes please give details.
- d. Are the charts you produce available to worldwide shipping?
- e. Do you have an agreement with a Regional ENC Coordinating Centre (RENC) for the distribution of ENC s and RNC s? If yes please give details.
- f. Please complete the following information relating to the status of nautical charting as reported in IHO Publication S-55 “Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide” – 3rd Edition. Comments should be added wherever appropriate:

A. Offshore passage and small scale-charts:

Percentage of national waters covered by INT ¹Charts: %.
Percentage of national waters covered by RNC s²: %.
Percentage of National waters covered by ENC s³: %.

B. Landfall, coastal passage and medium-scale charts:

Percentage of national waters covered by INT Charts: %.
Percentage of national waters covered by RNC s: %.
Percentage of National waters covered by ENC s: %.

C. Approaches, ports and large-scale charts:

¹ INT = International Charts or national equivalent meeting the standards set out in IHO publication « Regulations of the IHO for International (INT) Charts and Chart Specifications of the IHO » (M-4).

² RNC = Raster Navigational Chart meeting the standards set out in IHO Publication « Product Specification for Raster Navigational Charts (RNCs) » (S-61).

³ ENC = Electronic Navigational Charts meeting the standards set out in IHO Publication « IHO Transfer Standards for Digital Data » (S-57).

Percentage of national waters covered by INT Charts:	%.
Percentage of national waters covered by RNCs:	%.
Percentage of National waters covered by ENC:	%.

3. Maritime Safety Information

- a. Are you a NAVAREA coordinator? If so for which area?
- b. Are you a sub-area coordinator? If so for which sub-area?
- c. Are you a national coordinator? If not who is your national coordinator?
- d. Please complete the following information relating to the promulgation of MSI as reported in IHO Publication S-55 "Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide" - 3rd Edition. Answers may be Yes, No or Partial and comments should be added wherever appropriate:

Navigational Warnings:

Do you issue local warnings?
Do you issue coastal warnings?
Do you issue port information?
Do you issue NAVAREA warnings?

GMDSS Implementation (IMO GMDSS Handbook):

Master Plan?
A1 Area?
A2 Area?
A3 Area?
NAVTEX?
SafetyNET?