

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
ORGANIZATION



ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

IHB File No. S3/4058

CIRCULAR LETTER 32/2006
22 March 2006

GEODETIC DATUM - PAPER CHART "APPROPRIATE PORTFOLIO" FOR ECDIS

Dear Hydrographer,

At a meeting of the IMO Correspondence Group on ECDIS, held at the IHB in February 2006, concern was expressed by some non-IHO attendees that some of the paper charts in the "appropriate portfolio" to be used as ECDIS back-up, or where ENC's do not exist, may be referred to a geodetic datum other than WGS-84, thereby increasing the risk of errors when plotting satellite-derived positions on those charts.

Specification B-202 of IHO Publication M-4 "IHO Regulations for INT Charts and IHO Chart Specifications" requires that, whenever a chart is not referred to WGS-84, the required position adjustments to convert from WGS84 to the geodetic datum of the chart should be provided on the chart, as SATELLITE-DERIVED POSITIONS notes.

A quick examination of some charts held at the IHB has revealed that such notes, or their equivalent, appear to be inserted on all recent editions of INT charts. However, in order for the IHB to have a clearer picture of the current situation and be better prepared to discuss this issue at IMO forums, Member States are kindly requested to indicate their level of implementation of Specification B-202 by filling in the response form at **Annex A**, to be returned to the IHB **by 15 June 2006**.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR
Director

Encl: Annex A

Geodetic datum - Paper chart "appropriate portfolio" for ECDIS

Response Form
(to be returned to the IHB by 15 June 2006
E-mail: info@ihb.mc - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

Member State:

Do you facilitate the plotting of satellite-derived positions on your charts by inserting SATELLITE-DERIVED POSITIONS notes showing Lat/Long position adjustments, or equivalent method, in accordance with IHO Chart Specification B-202:

1. On INT charts

All Part None

If Part, percentage (estimate):

2. On national charts

All Part None

If Part, percentage (estimate):

Comments :.....
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Name/Signature:

Date: