



IHB File S3/8151/CHRIS

**CIRCULAR LETTER 69/2006  
19 October 2006**

### **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF S-100 and S-101**

- References:
- 1) IHB Circular Letter 60/2002, dated 4 December 2002
  - 2) IHB Circular Letter 42/2003, dated 24 June 2003
  - 3) IHB Circular Letter 83/2004 dated 7 December 2004
  - 4) IHB Circular Letter 26/2005 dated 10 March 2005
  - 5) IHB Circular Letter 93/2005 dated 23 September 2005
  - 6) IHB Circular Letter 94/2005 dated 23 September 2005

Dear Hydrographer,

#### **Introduction**

Circular Letter 60/2002 reported on the proposed development of S-57, Edition 4.0. Circular Letters 42/2003 and 83/2004 provided further updates on progress.

A statement from the Chairman of the IHO Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems (CHRIS) addressing concerns that S-57 e4.0 might impact on the current rates of production and implementation of ECDIS and ENC was included in Circular Letter 26/2005.

More recently, and as a result of advice and consideration derived from the ECDIS Stakeholders' Forum convened in September 2005 and held in conjunction with the 17th meeting of CHRIS, Circular Letter 93/2005 announced a change of name for S-57 e4.0, henceforth to be known as S-100. Circular Letter 93/2005 also described the development of an advanced ENC product specification to be known as S-101 that will be based on the S-100 geospatial data standard. Circular Letter 94/2005 explained the requirement to introduce S-57 e3.1.1 as an urgent update to S-57 to accommodate new features such as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) recently endorsed by the IMO.

At the ECDIS Stakeholders' Forum (ESF) convened in September 2006 and at the 10th meeting of the WEND Committee (WEND/10) concern was raised that the development of S-100 (formerly known as S-57 e4.0) and S-101 might adversely affect the implementation of ECDIS and the rate of global ENC production.

#### **S-100 - The IHO Geospatial Standard for Hydrographic Data - Update Statement**

At its 18th meeting in Cairns, Australia at the end of September 2006, the IHO CHRIS reviewed progress on S-100 and S-101 and took into account the concerns expressed at WEND/10 and the ESF.

The CHRIS reconfirmed that S-100 is intended to be a contemporary IHO standard covering hydrographic data and is not a standard intended specifically for ECDIS or charts used in ECDIS.

**The CHRIS confirmed that the publication of S-100  
- *The IHO Geospatial Standard for Hydrographic Data*  
should have NO impact on ECDIS or charts used in ECDIS**

In order to better inform stakeholders, the Committee agreed the following:

- A short title - *IHO Geospatial Standard for Hydrographic Data* will henceforth be used in conjunction with S-100. This is to highlight that S-100 is a wider geospatial standard and is not specific to ECDIS or to charts used in ECDIS.
- The previously published IHO Information Paper "*The Next Edition of IHO S-57 (4.0)*" will be updated to reflect S-100 and will further explain the standard and its implications. The information paper will be republished on the IHO website as soon as possible.

### **S-101 - Advanced ENC Product Specification - Update Statement**

The CHRIS considered the work of its TSMAD WG in developing S-101, the IHO product specification for ENCs based on S-100. In following its principles and procedures for the introduction of new or revised standards, CHRIS had already instructed the TSMAD WG that any development of S-101 must be backwards compatible with existing ECDIS.

The CHRIS/18 meeting was told that TSMAD is still in the early stages of gathering requirements and is inviting a broad discussion and input from stakeholders. The CHRIS was informed by the Chairman, TSMAD that:

- S-101 ENCs will be able to incorporate all the data included in S57 ENCs.
- S-101 ENCs will provide for greater functionality and additional information beyond that contained in an S57 ENC, such as "plug and play" updating of data, symbology and software enhancements.
- S-101 ENCs will enable HOs to produce ENCs that better meet customer requirements in the future.
- S57 ENCs will continue to be produced and used for many years into the future.
- S57-based production arrangements will be able to migrate to S-101-based production systems when HO's choose to do so.

The Chairman of the TSMAD WG stressed that:

**Future ECDIS equipment optimised to use S-101 will be able to use S-57 ENCs**

**S57 ENCs will not become instantly obsolete**

The Chairman of CHRIS also noted that S-100 and S-101 are currently in the course of development only. They will require formal MS approval before they can enter into force.

## Conclusion

Member States are invited to:

- a. **Take note** of this update,
- b. **Inform** all relevant stakeholder groups, and
- c. **Encourage** all stakeholder groups to contribute to the further development of S-100 and S-101 by seeking to participate in the relevant CHRIS WGs.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

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

Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR  
Director