



IHB File No. S3/3055

**CIRCULAR LETTER 04/2007
11 January 2007**

**IHO ONLINE CHART CATALOGUE –
COASTAL STATES' RECOMMENDED PAPER CHARTS**

Dear Hydrographer,

1 SOLAS regulation V/19.2.1.4 requires that “All ships irrespective of size shall have nautical charts and nautical publications to plan and display the ship's route for the intended voyage and to plot and monitor positions throughout the voyage;” and accepts that “an electronic chart display and information system (ECDIS) may be accepted as meeting the chart carriage requirements of this subparagraph;”. Regulation V/19.2.1.5 further requires that “All ships irrespective of size shall have back-up arrangements to meet the functional requirements of subparagraph .4, if this function is partly or fully fulfilled by electronic means;”.

2 A footnote to regulation V/19.2.1.5, as amended by the IMO Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV) at its 51st session (NAV51/19 paragraph 6.24) and endorsed by the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) at its 81st session (MSC81/25 paragraph 10.16) says “Paper nautical charts sufficient to meet the requirements of subparagraph .4 and regulation 27 may be used as back-up arrangement for ECDIS. Other back-up arrangements for ECDIS are acceptable (see appendix 6 to resolution A.817(19), as amended)”.

3 Resolution A.817(19) is the Performance Standards for ECDIS (ECDIS PS) a revision of which was approved by NAV52 (NAV52/18 paragraph 5.8 and Annex 6) and adopted by MSC82 (MSC82/WP.8/Add.1 paragraph 11.9.1 - this is the draft report and is expected to be MSC82/24 paragraph 11.9.1 when the final report is issued). The revised ECDIS PS at Section 14 requires that “Adequate back-up arrangements should be provided to ensure safe navigation in case of an ECDIS failure; see appendix 6”. Appendix 6 sets out the requirements for an electronic back-up i.e. a second independent ECDIS. The requirements of a paper chart back-up for ECDIS are as set out in the footnote to SOLAS regulation V/19.2.1.5 (paragraph 2 above).

4 Appendix 7 to the ECDIS PS sets out the requirements when ECDIS is used in the Raster Chart Display System (RCDS) mode and at paragraph 1.2 requires that “When operating in RCDS-mode, an appropriate portfolio of up-to-date paper charts (APC) should be carried on board and be readily available to the mariner.” Appendix 7 paragraph 3.7 defines the APC as “Appropriate Portfolio of up-to-date paper Charts (APC) means a suite of paper charts of a scale to show sufficient detail of topography, depths, navigational hazards, aids to navigation, charted routes, and routing measures to provide the mariner with information on the overall navigational environment. The APC should provide adequate look-ahead capability. Coastal States will provide details of the charts which meet the requirement of this portfolio, and these details are included in a world-wide database maintained by the IHO. Consideration should be given to the details contained in this database when determining the content of the APC.”

5 During the debate at NAV51 the Sub-Committee when considering what waters the coastal State should cover when advising an appropriate portfolio of up-to-date paper charts formed “the view that this was only relevant in territorial seas not covered by ENC's and transiting ships should seek the advice of the coastal State” (NAV51/19 paragraph 6.31). The Sub-Committee also “observed that under UNCLOS the only States which had a right to specify such a carriage of charts were, under the port entry provisions i.e. the coastal State of departure and destination and that the flag State was responsible in other areas, including for transiting ships, for which the advice of the coastal State should be sought” (NAV51/19 paragraph 6.32).

6 As requested by IMO and approved by IHO Member States (IHB CLs 50/2004 and 28/2005) the IHB is preparing an online catalogue which will include coastal States' recommendations for the Appropriate Portfolio of Paper Charts (APC) required to be carried when ECDIS is used in the RCDS mode (NAV52/18

paragraph 6.23.3). NAV52 also concluded that “Coastal States should consider which paper charts would meet the requirements of an “appropriate portfolio of paper charts” in waters under their jurisdiction in consultation with the relevant hydrographic authorities and where ENC’s do not exist and to communicate this to the IHO for inclusion in the online chart catalogue including information on “derived charts”.” (NAV52/18 paragraph 6.24)

7 The IHB now needs to receive coastal States’ recommendations as to the appropriate portfolio of paper charts in waters under their jurisdiction and those of other coastal States / dependent territories for which they have the charting responsibility. The NAV requirement is for the APC to cover areas where ECDIS is operated in RCDS mode, i.e. those areas not covered by ENC’s. The IHB, however, would also like to include information where ENC’s do exist in order to provide guidance on paper chart back-up for those vessels using them as a back-up to a single ECDIS using ENC’s (paragraph 2 above). Where a coastal State has a bilateral agreement, permitting another State to prepare “derived charts”, which meet the carriage requirements for their waters, the name of this State or States should be included in the report. The IHB will then seek information regarding the “derived charts” from the other States (NAV52/18 paragraph 6.24).

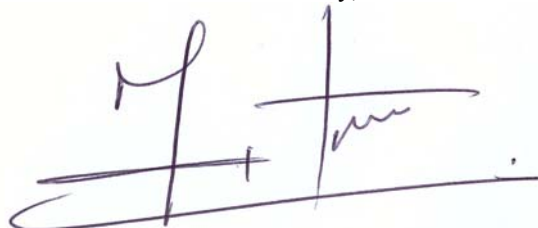
8 Many coastal States have complex coastlines, including coasts in more than one sea or ocean. In order to make the information as user friendly as possible for the mariner, States are requested to provide the information relative to clearly defined areas of coastline for instance between major ports, headlands or natural boundaries. It is suggested that the guidance given in the ECDIS PS, Appendix 7, paragraph 3.7 (paragraph 4 above) be used to determine the recommended charts. The IHB will also request that the IMO issue a Circular on this matter; Member States are therefore requested to coordinate their responses with their respective maritime agencies.

9 Member States are requested to forward the following information to the IHB:

- a. Member State Name;
- b. Names of States (if any) that produce “derived” charts;
- c. For each clearly defined section of coastline the following information regarding the recommended charts: National Chart No.; INT Chart No if appropriate; Scale; Whether the geodetic reference of the chart is WGS84 (Yes or No); and Chart Title for:
 - i. ECDIS when used in RCDS mode (APC); and
 - ii. As back-up for a single ECDIS using ENC’s
- d. Similar information for other States / dependent territories for which there is a charting responsibility.

It is requested that the information be provided digitally as a simple text or MS Word file **by email to the IHB (info@ihb.mc) by 16 April 2007**. Where email supply is not possible the information may be sent by fax or post.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Maratos', written over a horizontal line.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President