

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONALE**

IHB File No. S3/8162

**CIRCULAR LETTER 106/2007
15 November 2007**

**ENTRY INTO FORCE OF
NEW IHO TECHNICAL RESOLUTION A1.21**

References: A. CL 30/2007 dated 12 March 2007
B. CL 67/2007 dated 19 July 2007

Dear Hydrographer,

The IHB would like to thank the following Member States who replied to CL 30/2007 and CL 67/2007 concerning the adoption of a new Technical Resolution A1.21: Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Rep of Korea, Latvia, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America.

There are currently 80 Member States of the IHO. Three Member States have been suspended. Therefore in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article VI of the Convention on the IHO the majority required for adoption of a Technical Resolution is 38.

The IHB has received 42 replies, all of which approve the adoption of TR A1.21. Accordingly, TR A1.21 is adopted and has entered into force.

Eight Member States provided additional comments with their responses. These are shown in Annex A to this Circular Letter, together with comments from the IHB.

IHO Publication M-3 - *Resolutions of the IHO* will be amended to include TR A1.21 in due course.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Captain Robert WARD
Director

Annex A: Member States' Comments

TR A1.21 - MEMBER STATES' COMMENTS

Bangladesh

1. The revised *Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications* is agreed but integration of following criteria may also be considered:

a. The principle for assessing any proposed change should incorporate evaluation of the financial and technological constraints / limitations of the developing Member States in adopting the changes.

b. The procedure to implement the changes should include the obligation of obtaining a certain percentage (maybe 75% or more) of approval / vote of IHO Member States

IHB Comments: The purpose of the *Principles and Procedures* is to ensure that the impact and consequences of any changes to IHO Standards and Specifications are fully considered. This should, of course, include any impact on developing Member States. All Member States have an opportunity to comment on Proposals both as part of the relevant Committee processes, but also in the approval process of the IHO Program and its subordinate Work Programs.

France

A French version of the "*Typical Lifecycle of an IHO Standard*" should be produced.

IHB Comments: A French language version of the lifecycle diagram will be included in M-3.

New Zealand

New Zealand was a major contributor to the deliberations at CHRIS in Cairns and fully supports the new principles and procedures.

Oman

Any control over changing standards is welcome. The more the better.

Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea fully supports the changes, provided it is dynamic to meet the needs.

Portugal

IHPT fully supports the work developed by CHRIS at its 18th meeting in the revision of principles and procedures for making changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications. In order to optimize and standardize the proposals for change to IHO technical standards and specifications it is important that these principles and procedures be adopted and applied.

United Kingdom

UK agrees that there is a requirement for a Technical resolution (T.R.), but considers the wording needs to be reviewed before being made a T.R. and requests clarification of the application of the Resolution as contained in Annex A to CL30/2007.

Currently the scope seems ambiguous: whilst the resolution would be entirely appropriate for the development of S-57, S-100, etc, with potentially wide impacts on the maritime community, it appears excessive for many of the IHO's other standards. The draft states that the "*procedures are intended to be applied to all proposals for change to IHO technical standards and specifications*", but also that they "*are not intended to be applied to minor technical issues that arise from the work of IHO subordinate bodies*". It is not clear whether the second phrase exempts IHO subordinate bodies from its application or whether the bodies themselves make the subjective assessment of which piece of work the Resolution applies to.

Of particular concern is the application of the Resolution to the CHRIS CSPCWG. This Working Group currently proposes changes to M-4 and revised symbology, which are subject to approval by Member States; adding a further layer of approval could lead to stagnation of the Working group activities.

A general comment is that the use of “*must*” and “*will*” needs to be restricted to activities undertaken by the IHB or IHO Committees, etc.

IHB Comments: The *Principles and Procedures* are intended to allow for some flexibility in their application so as to avoid unnecessary bureaucracy. IHO subordinate bodies, such as Working Groups do not have authority to commence new work without the agreement of their controlling bodies. In the near future, this will be either the Hydrographic Standards and Specifications Committee (HSSC) or the Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC). The composition of these higher Committees is such that it seems reasonable to assume that they will be able to decide when it is appropriate to invoke the full procedures described in TR A1.21.

USA

The proposed “*Principles and Procedures for Making changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications*” is acceptable for its purpose and should not impede reasonable proposals for change. In supporting these principles and procedures, the USA interprets Procedure subparagraph 1. to include the acceptability of considering proposals by correspondence and Circular Letter. In addition, the USA interprets the last two dashed items of Procedure subparagraph 5 to include the proposed retirement date of the old standard.

IHB Comments: The *Principles and Procedures* are intended to apply to all decisions taken by the relevant bodies of the IHO, whether by correspondence or at meetings. As indicated in the diagram “*Governance Lifecycle for IHO Standards*” they are intended to apply to the proposed introduction, significant amendment or withdrawal of standards.