



IHB File No. S3/8151/IEC 61174

**CIRCULAR LETTER 109/2007
30 November 2007**

**TEST SPECIFICATIONS FOR ELECTRONIC CHART DISPLAY AND INFORMATION SYSTEM
IEC61174, Edition 3**

Dear Hydrographer,

1 This Circular Letter seeks to draw attention to shortcomings in Edition 3 of IEC61174 - *Test Specifications for Electronic Chart Display and Information System* currently under consideration by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). It invites Hydrographers to urgently consult their national representatives in IEC Technical Committee 80 (TC80) with a view to seeking certain additions considered necessary by the IHO Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems (CHRIS) before voting closes in early 2008.

2 The IEC is recognized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as the competent authority that develops and publishes the test specifications and guidelines against which navigational and related equipment, that are required under the terms of Chapter V of the Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS V), are tested.

3 The test specification IEC 61174 - *Test Specifications for Electronic Chart Display and Information System* is being revised by IEC to take into account the revisions to the IMO Performance Standards for ECDIS that are due to come into force by 1 January 2009. The revised edition of IEC 61174 will be edition 3. Edition 3 of IEC61174 includes test standards for the implementation of the IHO Data Protection Scheme - S-63.

4 The CHRIS reviewed progress on Edition 3 of IEC 61174 at its 19th meeting in Rotterdam in November 2007 (CHRIS/19) and was informed that Edition 3 of IEC 61174 is being circulated by IEC as a Committee Draft for Voting (CDV), with votes and final comments due by 11 January 2008. IEC will then consider the comments that are received from its voting members, and prepare a consolidated draft that will then be resubmitted for voting. No comments or amendments are allowed after the 11 January 2008 deadline. In most cases, comments and input to IEC TC80 are collated by and provided by Member States' national standards organizations. National HOs are usually not directly involved in the IEC voting process.

5 The CHRIS Committee has been informed by the Chairman of its Colours and Symbols Maintenance WG (CSMWG) that tests for the new features and symbology recently included in Edition 3.1.1 of S-57 and in Edition 3.4 of S-52 - *Presentation Library* have not been included in the revision to

IEC61174. This is despite representations being made by IHO representatives to the IEC Working group tasked with drafting the revision. The Chairman of the IEC working group involved reported to CHRIS/19 members attending the ECDIS Stakeholders' Forum, held in conjunction with CHRIS/19, that there had been insufficient time available to incorporate these tests into the revised text now under consideration by IEC members.

6 In particular, the current draft of edition 3 of IEC 61174 does not include tests for the generic '*new object*' feature that has been created specifically to cater for any new chart features that IMO may require in the future. The revised requirements for the presentation of S-57 objects with invalid attributes have also been omitted from the revision. CHRIS/19 agreed that tests for the correct handling and display of the "*new object*" features and attributes described above are important and should therefore be included in the draft before it is approved by IEC.

7 In addition, the IEC revision does not include a reference to IHO Publication S-64 as being the IHO ENC Test dataset. There is also no testing specified for the "SENC distribution" option that is available for ECDIS chart data.

8 CHRIS/19 agreed that this situation should be brought to the urgent attention of all Member States who have voting status in IEC TC80 to ensure that the revised test specifications best serve the purpose for which they are intended. TC80 is the Committee that oversees the WG revising IEC 61174. Those Member States that have voting status in TC80 are identified in Annex A to this Circular Letter. They are invited to consider this matter further and to consult their national representatives in IEC with a view to seeking the additions considered necessary by CHRIS.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Captain Robert WARD
Director

Annex A - List of MS who have voting status in TC80.

LIST OF MEMBER STATES WHO HAVE VOTING STATUS IN IEC TC 80

United States of America	US	Participant
United Kingdom	GB	Participant
Ukraine	UA	Observer
Turkey	TR	Observer
Sweden	SE	Participant
Spain	ES	Observer
Serbia	RS	Observer
Russian Federation	RU	Participant
Romania	RO	Participant
Poland	PL	Observer
Norway	NO	Participant
New Zealand	NZ	Observer
Netherlands	NL	Participant
Mexico	MX	Observer
Korea, Republic of	KR	Participant
Japan	JP	Participant
Italy	IT	Participant
Ireland	IE	Observer
India	IN	Observer
Greece	GR	Observer
Germany	DE	Participant
France	FR	Participant
Finland	FI	Participant
Egypt	EG	Participant
Denmark	DK	Participant
Czech Republic	CZ	Observer
Croatia	HR	Observer
China	CN	Participant
Canada	CA	Participant
Bulgaria	BG	Observer
Belgium	BE	Participant
Austria	AT	Participant
Australia	AU	Observer

The list of IEC TC80 member organizations can be found at:

<http://www.iec.ch/cgi-bin/procgi.pl/www/iecwwww.p?wwwlang=e&wwwprog=ponc.p&progdb=db1&committee=80>