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CIRCULAR LETTER 121/2007
17 December 2007

GUIDANCE ON ENCODING OF NEW S57 e3.1.1 OBJECTS AND ATTRIBUTES

- References:
- 1) IHB Circular Letter 05/2007 dated 12 January 2007
 - 2) 19th CHRIS Meeting –Action 19/13

Dear Hydrographer,

1. IHB Circular Letter 05/2007 announced the immediate introduction of S-57 edition 3.1.1 . Its primary purpose is to enable the encoding and appropriate depiction of Archipelagic Sea Lanes (ASL) and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) recently introduced by IMO. In addition, the revised standard also caters for future requirements by including a generic new Object Class “NEWOBJ”. This is intended to cater for any additional requirements that IMO may choose to introduce in the future that cannot be encoded using the existing object classes.

2. At its 19th meeting in Rotterdam in November 2007 the Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems (CHRIS) considered how the revised standard should be used to best assist mariners. In particular, it was noted that certain measures need to be taken to ensure that any ENC data created using edition 3.1.1 of the S-57 standard is properly announced and is encoded in such a way as to make it compatible with older ECDIS software, as far as is possible.

3. The CHRIS agreed on two important measures that Member States should follow:

.1 ENC Producer HOs should consider issuing a Notice to Mariners to alert mariners when any of the new S-57 Supplement No. 1 (Edition 3.1.1) objects are first used in their ENCs.

.2 ENC producer HOs should encode INFORM and/or TXTDSC attributes of these new objects so that the relevant information is also available and can be used in out-of-date ECDIS that cannot display the new Objects or Attributes with the dedicated symbology but instead revert to the default settings that display “unknown objects”.

4. In addition, the Committee wished to remind all ENC Producer HOs that the object class NEWOBJ is **NOT** intended for use at present. Its use will only be authorised by the IHO if or when there are new IMO requirements to show information on charts that cannot be achieved using the established S-57 encoding and S-52 display arrangements.

5. Member States that are producing ENCs are invited to take note of the recommendations from CHRIS.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Captain Robert WARD
Director