



THIS CIRCULAR LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE

IHB File N° S3/8151

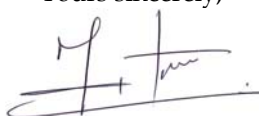
CIRCULAR LETTER 16/2008
22 February 2008

FACTS ABOUT ELECTRONIC CHARTS AND CARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The information booklet "*Facts about Electronic Charts and Carriage Requirements*" has been developed by the two Regional ENC Coordinating Centres (RENCs) Primar and IC-ENC and has been available on the internet for some time. The publication is intended to inform both Maritime Administrations and mariners on the practical implementation of the IMO carriage requirements regarding ENCs and ECDIS. Both RENCs have proposed that this informative and useful publication would be best placed under the responsibility of IMO, since IMO is the responsible authority for the carriage requirements covered by the document.
2. At its meeting at the IHB on 28 and 29 January, where it was discussed and decided upon the details of the IHO submission and presentation to the forthcoming IMO NAV/54 on the status of global ENC coverage, the WEND Task Group also considered the proposal by the RENCs regarding the adoption of "*Facts about Electronic Charts and Carriage Requirements*" by the IMO. The TG concluded that as a first step the booklet should be adopted as an IHO publication. The IHO could then propose to IMO that it become a joint IMO-IHO publication, and treated in a similar way to the IMO-IHO World Wide Navigational Warning Service Manual.
3. The Chair of the WEND-Task Group Mr Horst Hecht has recently informed the Bureau that the two RENCs have agreed to the WEND TG proposal.
4. In addition to the websites of the RENCs, "*Facts about Electronic Charts and Carriage Requirements*" can now be accessed on the IHO website at <http://www.iho.int/> menu items > ENC/ECDIS > Introduction > for your information and reference.
5. Member States are requested to indicate their support for the proposal to:
 - a. adopt the booklet "*Facts about Electronic Charts and Carriage Requirements*" as an IHO document, and to subsequently
 - b. invite the IMO to co-sponsor the publication as a joint IHO-IMO information document.
6. Please fill in the attached form and return it to the Bureau **no later than 10 April 2008**.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

Annex: Form

FACTS ABOUT ELECTRONIC CHARTS AND CARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS

VOTING FORM

(to be returned to the IHB by 10 April 2008
E-mail: info@ihb.mc - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

Member State:

.....

Contact:.....E-mail:

a. Do you agree that the publication "*Facts about Electronic Charts and Carriage Requirements*" should be adopted as an IHO publication?

YES

NO

b. Do you agree that the publication "*Facts about Electronic Charts and Carriage Requirements*" should be adopted subsequently as a joint IHO-IMO publication?

YES

NO

Comments:.....

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Name/Signature:Date: