



IHB File No. S3/8161

CIRCULAR LETTER 26/2008
14 March 2008

S-101 STAKEHOLDERS' WORKSHOP

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As a result of proposals at the ECDIS Stakeholders' Forum, held in Rotterdam in November 2007 in conjunction with the 19th meeting of the Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems (CHRIS), the Chairman of the Transfer Standards and Applications Development Working Group (TSMAD) invited a range of Expert Contributors to a workshop held at the IHB from 4 to 6 March 2008. The purpose of the workshop was to provide initial guidance to the TSMAD Task Groups assigned to develop the first draft of S-101 - *ENC Product Specification*.

2. A wide range of stakeholder groups was represented at the workshop including ECDIS equipment manufacturers, maritime administrations, ship management companies, mariners, and ENC software houses. The leaders of the relevant TSMAD teams also attended. Captain Ward (IHB) acted as Convener, assisted by the Chairman TSMAD.

3. The workshop participants covered a wide range of topics and provided the S-101 group leaders with various technical options together with their benefits and consequences to the non-IHO stakeholder community. In addition, the stakeholder group raised a number of matters for wider consideration by the IHO. The issues are:

- S-101 should describe the ENC product produced by HOs - not the product finally delivered by a Distributor.
- Dynamic tides should be implemented in ECDIS as soon as possible with appropriate safeguards being put in place.
- An MIO is an appropriate way to deal with tidal stream information.
- ENC licences and permits should not require significant end-user management or intervention. Simplification of the processes is required to make it less complicated for the customer.
- The IHO through the IHB should participate in the IMO Sub-Committee on the Safety of Navigation (NAV) Work Item concerning maintenance of navigation software, to seek a logical division between type approval for hardware, software and software updating.

- IHO S-52 - *Specifications for Chart Content and Display Aspects of ECDIS* requires major revision. This will require expert contributor input and most likely require specialist contractor support and funding to achieve.
- An implementation schedule is required for S-101 as soon as possible to enable stakeholders to make appropriate investments and planning.

As a result, the IHB will ensure that these issues are included as appropriate in the agendas of CHRIS and WEND for further discussion.

4. The working records of the workshop have been posted on the IHO website at <http://www.iho.int/COMMITTEES/CHRIS/TSMAD/tsmadintro.htm#FG0>.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

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

Captain Robert WARD
Director