



IHB File N° S3/3084

**CIRCULAR LETTER 70/2008
12 September 2008**

**PROMULGATION OF MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION
JOINT IMO/IHO/WMO MANUAL ON MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION**

Reference: IHB CL 39/2008 dated 25 April 2008

Dear Hydrographer,

1 As reported at the reference the IHO Commission on the Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings (CPRNW) has been reviewing the text of the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information (MSI). The World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) representative to CPRNW has participated fully in this review and CPRNW has also received advice and guidance from the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Secretariat. Work on this review was completed at the recent CPRNW10 meeting held in Brazil at the end of August.

2 This review has incorporated those amendments required following the approval, by IMO's Sub-committee on Communications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR) at its twelfth session in April 2008, of the revised IMO resolutions A.705(17) as amended, Promulgation of Maritime Safety Information, and A.706(17) as amended, IMO/IHO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Guidance Document. It should be noted that these draft amended resolutions are expected to be adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) in late 2008. The opportunity has also been taken to update and restructure the manual into a more useful and user friendly form.

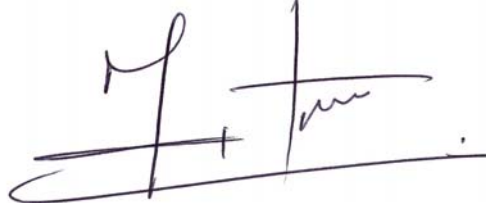
3 The IHO publishes the Joint MSI Manual as Appendix 1 to IHO Publication S-53 (Joint IHO/IMO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Guidance Document). CPRNW considered that S-53 and S-53 Appendix 1 should be merged into a single publication, S-53, and that this should be the same as the Joint MSI Manual published by IMO. In reviewing the current S-53 the only information not included in the Joint MSI Manual was Section 6 - "Co-ordinator Resources and Responsibilities". This information has therefore been incorporated into Section 3 of the draft revised Joint MSI Manual. The proposed revised IHO Publication S-53 requires a slightly amended "Preface" and "Section 10 - Procedure for amending S-53" to recognise the fact that it is published by IHO rather than IMO but in all other respects the publications would be identical. S-53 currently includes Annex A giving the contact details for NAVAREA Co-ordinators. This information requires updating at regular intervals and CPRNW proposes that this should in future be published as a separate Appendix to S-53 which will be continuously corrected and made available from the CPRNW section of the IHO web site. IMO publishes this information as a COMSAR Circular.

4 The draft revised text for the Joint MSI Manual and S-53 is available from the IHO web site www.iho.int > Committees > CPRNW "Miscellaneous Section - Draft MSI Manual and S-53". Any Member State requiring a hard copy should contact the IHB. The IHB would propose that the revision of S-53 and S-53 Appendix 1 should not be made until the Joint MSI Manual has received the approval of IMO and that the text of S-53 should include any amendments made to the Joint MSI Manual by IMO.

5 The IHB will forward the revised MSI Manual to the WMO Secretariat seeking their agreement for a joint submission to COMSAR.

6 The draft revised MSI manual needs to be submitted to IMO by Friday 17 October 2008 if it is to be considered by COMSAR at its thirteenth session in January 2009. The IHB would therefore request that Member States provide any comments on the draft revised MSI Manual no later than **Friday 10 October 2008**.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical stroke, with a smaller signature below it.

Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos
President