

**CIRCULAR LETTER 82/2008**  
**16 October 2008**

**11<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE WEND COMMITTEE**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> ECDIS STAKEHOLDERS FORUM**  
**2-5 September 2008, Tokyo, Japan**

References: a) WEND Letter 1/2008 dated 15 May 2008 - *11<sup>th</sup> WEND Committee Meeting*  
b) CL47/2008 dated 19 May 2008 - *11<sup>th</sup> WEND Committee Meeting*

Dear Hydrographer,

**11<sup>TH</sup> WEND MEETING**

1. The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee on the Worldwide Electronic Navigational Chart Database (WEND) took place at the Mita Kaigisho Conference Hall in Tokyo, between 2-5 September 2008, under the Chairmanship of Captain Abri KAMPFER, South Africa. The sixty-seven attendees representing twenty-nine Member States and four accredited NGIOs deliberated on numerous issues of importance relating to the production and distribution of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC). The full proceedings are summarized in the minutes of the meeting that can be found on the IHO website ([www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) → Committees & WGs → WEND). A list of actions arising from the meeting is provided in **Annex A**.
2. The principal topic for discussion was a review of the WEND Principles – and in particular the need for guidance notes concerning the harmonization and quality of data in ENCs. As a result, the Committee prepared and agreed a WEND Committee paper - *Guidelines for the Implementation of the WEND Principles*. This paper (Annex G to WEND-11 Minutes) is provided in **Annex B**. It has also been posted on the WEND page of the IHO website. In implementing the WEND Principles (Technical Resolution K2.19), the WEND Committee invites IHO Member States to consider and apply these Guidelines.
3. The Committee considered a *Data Chain Certification Concept* presented by RTCA and invited the RTCA delegate to convene an informal correspondence group to further study its potential application to the data distribution chain for charts and nautical publications.
4. The Committee considered mechanisms to better coordinate the scheming and production of small and medium scale ENCs on a regional basis.
5. The Committee discussed the transition arrangements for WEND activities to be taken over by the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. The Committee recommended that the IRCC consider establishing a Task Group similar to the WEND TG to undertake specific tasks related to the ongoing development and implementation of the WEND concept.

#### 4<sup>TH</sup> ECDIS STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

6. Capitalizing on the successful format of previous ECDIS Stakeholders' Forums (ESF), whereby the ESF is held in conjunction with a major IHO Committee meeting (CHRIS or WEND), the 4<sup>th</sup> ESF was convened in Tokyo to coincide with the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the WEND. Approximately 150 participants from ECDIS software/hardware manufactures, Maritime Safety Administrations, Hydrographic Offices, Shipping Lines, NGOs, and chart distributors gathered under the chairmanship of Horst Hecht, Germany to discuss issues associated with ENC and ECDIS. The proceedings of the ESF are summarized in the record of discussion in Annex H to the Minutes of WEND-11.

7. The principal message from Stakeholders to the IHO was that Member States must co-operate more closely to harmonize the supply of ENC services, and to facilitate the use and uptake of ENCs, and in particular:

- Greater harmony is required in ENC pricing.
- Greater flexibility is required in how ENCs can be purchased, including "pay per view", "pay as you go" and other innovative data service models. "Price per ENC" is not necessarily the best or only pricing model for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- ENC licensing must be better harmonized - license management is presently a difficult management task both for ENC retailers and for navigating officers.
- ENC retailers prefer a "one-stop shop" to obtain ENC coverage. Currently this is not possible because not all ENCs are available through RENCs.
- All ENC producers must follow a standard method of providing Temporary and Preliminary Notices to Mariners for ENCs electronically. It is confusing, time-consuming and unacceptable for some HO's to provide T&P notices via local NtoMs (in some cases, not even in English).

#### THANKS

8. The Directing Committee, together with the Chairs of WEND and the 4<sup>th</sup> ESF, thanks the Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department, as well as the Japan Ocean Policy Research Foundation for its kind support, for the excellent organisation and hosting of both of these important IHO events.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,



Captain Robert WARD  
Director

Annex A- Action Items arising from the 11<sup>th</sup> WEND Meeting  
Annex B - Guidelines for the Implementation of the WEND Principles

ACTIONS FROM THE 11<sup>TH</sup> WEND MEETING

Action Number	Agenda Item	Subject	Action(s)	Status (Oct 08)
11/1	3	ENC Coverage	<b>IHB</b> to monitor and report regularly on status of global ENC production and availability obtaining input from RENCs, RHCs and other relevant sources.	Ongoing
11/2	3	Customizing S-63	<b>Chair ESF-4</b> to raise matter of customizing S-63 at ESF-4 to seek stakeholder confirmation that no further action is required.	completed
11/3	3	Raising awareness at Government level	<b>IHB</b> to inform Member States by CL that the assistance of the DC is always available to approach the relevant authorities (including at senior governmental levels) using appropriate diplomatic, intergovernmental or other points of contact to raise the levels of awareness and commitment to provide appropriate hydrographic services, especially ENC coverage. <b>IHB</b> to then take appropriate action based on individual responses, taking note of the drafting notes prepared by WEND-11 Drafting Group in response to X-WEND-1 Action 5.	1 <sup>st</sup> action done (CL 72/2008 refers)
11/4	3	IMO MS obligations under SOLAS V/9	<b>IHB</b> to prepare a submission to IMO MSC inviting IMO to remind its MS of their obligations under SOLAS V/9.	yet to be done
11/5	5	Preparations for MSC85 and MSC86	<b>IHB</b> to prepare for MSC85 and MSC86 in relation to carriage requirements for ECDIS.	yet to be done
11/6	6	Data Chain Certification Concept	The <b>RTCA delegate</b> to convene a Correspondence Group on <i>Data Chain Certification Concept</i> .	yet to be done
11/7	6	Data Chain Certification Concept	The <b>RTCA delegate</b> to present the <i>Data Chain Certification Concept</i> to CHRIS-20.	yet to be done
11/8	6	Data Chain Certification Concept	<b>IHB</b> to recommend that CHRIS members be invited to participate in the correspondence group on <i>Data Chain Certification Concept</i> .	yet to be done
11/9	6	Data Chain Certification Concept	The <b>RTCA delegate</b> to present a progress report from the Correspondence Group on <i>Data Chain Certification Concept</i> to IRCC-1.	yet to be done
11/10	6	South China Sea ENCs	<b>IHB</b> to issue CL informing MS of new edition of the South China Sea ENCs.	Done (CL 74/2008 refers)

11/11	7	Guidelines for the implementation of the WEND principles	When circulating WEND-11 Minutes to Member States, <b>IHB</b> to convey the following message: "In implementing the WEND Principles (Technical Resolution K2.19), the WEND committee invites IHO Member States to consider and apply the <i>Guidelines for the implementation of the WEND principles</i> developed by the Committee and contained in Annex G to the WEND-11 Minutes."	Done via this CL
11/12	7	Small/medium scale ENC schemes	<b>IHB</b> to invite CHRIS/HSSC to consider developing guidelines for the preparation and maintenance of small/medium scale ENC schemes and determine whether they should be included in S-65 or a new document similar to M-11.	Done (Doc. CHRIS20-04.1A rev.1 refers)
11/13	7	Small/medium scale ENC schemes	<b>IHB</b> to invite relevant RHCs and INT chart coordinators to coordinate the development of small/medium scale ENC schemes.	yet to be done
11/14	7	Small/medium scale ENC schemes	<b>IHB</b> to consider the potential use of the IHO Chart Catalogue on the web in support of the development of small/medium scale ENC schemes.	yet to be done
11/15	8	ENC licensing, pricing and distribution	<b>Chair ESF &amp; IHB</b> to prepare a CL highlighting ESF-4 feedback relating to licensing, pricing and distribution of ENCs.	Done via this CL
11/16	8	ENC licensing, pricing and distribution	<b>IHB</b> to propose the inclusion of a discussion on ENC licensing, pricing and distribution under the umbrella of the 4 <sup>th</sup> EIHC.	Done (CCL02 refers)
11/17	9	Transition to IRCC	<b>Chair WEND &amp; IHB</b> to prepare a transition report, circulate the draft to WEND-11 participants and then submit final report to IRCC.	yet to be done
11/18	9	Transition to IRCC	<b>Chair WEND</b> to recommend to IRCC to consider establishing a WEND TG with the TORs and ROPs agreed by the WEND-11.	yet to be done

**11<sup>TH</sup> WEND COMMITTEE MEETING  
Tokyo, 2-5 September 2008**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WEND PRINCIPLES**

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) is encouraging the transition from paper charts to electronic navigation through its support of a carriage requirement for ECDIS. It follows that the IHO should ensure that mariners are well served by adequate ENC services.

Noting that there are significant improvements required related to coverage, consistency, quality, updating and distribution of ENCs for many parts of the world and that this needs urgent attention, the WEND Committee invites IHO Member States to apply the following guidelines for the implementation of the WEND Principles (Technical Resolution K2.19).

**1. Responsibilities of Coastal States**

- 1.1 A mandatory carriage requirement for ECDIS means a consequential obligation on Coastal States to ensure the provision of ENCs.
- 1.2 If the coastal State is the issuing authority (in terms of SOLAS V/2.2) then responsibility for the ENCs should lie with it regardless of whether the production and maintenance is undertaken with the assistance of commercial contractors or another Member State.
- 1.3 Where agreement is given to another Member State to produce and issue ENCs on behalf of a Coastal State the producing / issuing Member State should carry the responsibility for the ENC.
- 1.4 States providing source data to another State for the compilation of ENCs should advise that producer State of update information in a timely manner.
- 1.5 Member States should take into consideration the complexity and resource requirements of the ENC production and maintenance task in relation to their own capabilities and options when deciding how to best ensure the provision of ENCs for their waters.
- 1.6 Subject to appropriate agreement, it is acceptable for a Member State or a group of Member States to produce ENCs as an interim measure to fill gaps in existing coastal States' coverage to promote contiguous coverage. Such ENCs should be withdrawn when adequate coverage is made available by the coastal State.
- 1.7 The S-57 standard requires that there is no overlap of ENC data within usage bands. ECDIS systems will operate unpredictably in areas where overlapping ENC data is present; for this reason overlapping ENC data is not acceptable in end-user services. Where overlapping coverage exists the producing States should recognize their responsibility and take the necessary steps to resolve the situation. In situations where overlapping data cannot be resolved through negotiation, the ENC producer(s) can anticipate that an end user service provider may need to take action itself to eliminate the overlap or discontinue services until the issue is satisfactorily addressed. Any such action to eliminate overlap should be communicated in advance to the affected ENC producer(s) and be based on guidelines that emphasize navigation safety, such as the following:
  1. Scale of the data compiled in the ENC,
  2. Currency of data in the ENC - i.e. most recent surveys, shoalest soundings, wrecks, rocks, and obstructions,

3. Avoidance of dividing navigationally significant features between producers. For example, Traffic Separation Schemes should be handled by one producer or the other.
- 1.8 Exceptionally, a Member State may create additional ENC's to facilitate unified coverage where such production is undertaken specifically to address issues inhibiting provision of ENC coverage for the safety of navigation in accordance with the long term aims of the WEND Principles. A Member State undertaking such production should have very valid reasons for its actions and, beforehand, should have made reasonable efforts to negotiate with and come to some agreement with the State that has jurisdiction over the area in question. RHCs should place a high priority on filling ENC gaps.
- 1.9 In order to ensure uniform quality and consistency of the WEND, Member States should cooperate in accordance with clause 1.3 of the WEND Principles.
- 1.10 To ensure that the WEND database is maintained to the highest quality standard Member States that identify an error or any other deficiency in an issued ENC, or that receive information indicating such a deficiency, must bring this to the attention of the ENC producer so that the problem can be resolved at the earliest opportunity. Member States should act to ensure that appropriate actions are taken so that the safety of navigation is not compromised.

## **2. Reference Standards and Implementation**

- 2.1 Harmonization means the uniform implementation of S-57 and other applicable standards, according to common IHO implementation rules as described in S-58, S-65 and the S-57 Encoding Bulletins.
- 2.2 Member States not wishing to join a RENC should make appropriate arrangements to ensure that their ENC's meet WEND requirements for consistency and quality and are widely distributed.

## **3. Capacity Building and Cooperation**

- 3.1 Assistance to coastal States may cover aspects such as development of an ENC production capability, ENC quality and the role of RENCs in ENC validation and distribution.
- 3.2 It is essential that coastal States have established cartographic capability and infrastructure prior to undertaking ENC production and maintenance tasks themselves so as to ensure that the ENC's within the WEND database meet the high quality standards necessary to fulfil SOLAS requirements.
- 3.3 IHO Member States should consider ENC related projects as high priority capacity building initiatives.

## **4. Integrated services**

- 4.1 Member States and RENCs should cooperate to ensure that ENC's are harmonised to the same quality standards thereby facilitating integrated services.
- 4.2 Member States only need to consider the use of S-63 if they intend to deliver a service to end users. Data Servers (i.e. service providers) and equipment manufacturers are responsible for implementing S-63 and form part of the 'S-63 trusted circle' (i.e. are entrusted to protect the ENC's and the encryption process).