



IHB File N° S3/3084

**CIRCULAR LETTER 84/2008
28 October 2008**

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

Reference: IHB CL 70/2008 dated 12 September 2008

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The IHB thanks the following 11 Member States who replied to the Reference: Argentina, Canada, Chile, France, India, Monaco, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden and the UK. All replies supported the submission to IMO COMSAR 13 of the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information. Sweden provided some comments on S-53, the IHO version of the publication, and France proposed an additional example for Section 7. These are included at Annex A together with comments by the IHB.

2 The WMO provided some editorial corrections to Section 8 on "Meteorological Warnings and Forecasts" and have agreed that this should be a joint submission to IMO by IHO and WMO. The Chairman of CPRNW and the Secretary of the CPRNW WG on WNWNS Documentation also studied the circulated document and made some editorial corrections to ensure completeness and consistency throughout the document.

3 The final text was submitted to IMO on 16 October and was issued by IMO as COMSAR 13/3/1 on 28 October. It can be downloaded from the IHO web site www.iho.int > External Liaisons > International Organizations Documents > IMO. The text, together with the draft version of S-53 is also available from Committees > CPRNW (Miscellaneous). As set out in paragraph 4 of the reference any amendments to the Joint MSI Manual made by IMO will also be included in S-53 which will only be issued when the Joint Manual has been adopted by IMO.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

France

In accordance with IMO circular MSC.1/Circ.1261 (prevention of accidents due to driftwood and other floating obstacles), it is suggested to add another example in the list of SafetyNET coastal warning examples.

This example could become example 6, in para 7 point 5 : Drifting hazards (including derelict vessels, ice, mines, containers, other large items, etc.);

1. Message identifier : WEST INDIES - COASTAL WARNING NMR 023/08
2. General area :
3. Locality : SOUTH MARTINIQUE
4. Chart number :
5. Key subject : SEA USERS ARE INFORMED THAT A TRUNK OF WOOD ADRIFT IN VICINITY OF 14 DEG 14 NORTH AND
6. Geographical position 060 DEG 52 WEST ON
AUGUST 27TH AT 21H15 UTC. LENGTH 5 METERS
6. Geographical position
7. Amplifying remarks
8. Cancellations details : CANCEL THIS MESSAGE ON AUGUST 29TH AT 21H15 UTC

Comment by the IHB: A new example regarding a floating tree trunk has been included, as well as adding a new note regarding the size of such objects which would be relevant for a Navigational Warning.

Sweden

Sweden is in general very positive to the current work in CPRNW aiming to revise and modernize the IHO/IMO MSI Guidance Documents and we find the great number of examples of warnings in section 7 very useful to the personnel who are engaged in drafting MSI.

However, as S-53 is intended to be used by "anyone who is concerned with drafting navigational warnings or with the issuance of meteorological forecasts and warnings under the GMDSS", we think it would be wise to also include some good examples of Coastal Warnings, Weather Forecasts and Wind Warnings.

This can perhaps not be done prior to the submission to COMSAR 13 but hopefully it could be included in the following edition.

The technical development is nowadays very rapid and consequently new systems affecting navigation are introduced and therefore a more frequent review of the examples in section 7 is recommended.

Comment by IHB: These remarks will be passed to CPRNW for their future consideration.