



IHB File No. S3/8151/CHRIS

CIRCULAR LETTER 92/2008  
14 November 2008

**CHRIS ENC UPDATING WORKING GROUP (EUWG)**

Reference: Minutes of CHRIS/20 – Action Item 20/17

Dear Hydrographer,

1. At the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems (CHRIS) held in Brazil in November 2008, France submitted a paper (CHRIS20-06.1C) drawing attention to inconsistencies in the promulgation and distribution of Temporary and Preliminary (T&P) Notices to Mariners (NtoM) intended for use in ECDIS. France identified that:

- about half of all ENC Producer States promulgate the equivalent of T and/or P notices via ENC updates, whereas the other half invite mariners to refer to Notices to Mariners booklets or websites;
- translation of T and P notices intended for paper charts into ENC updates is sometimes inconsistent or incorrect;
- T&P notices for paper charts and ENCs are not always issued at the same time; and
- not all T&P notices intended for ENCs are in English.

2. A copy of CHRIS paper CHRIS20-06.1C (in English only) is included at Annex A for reference.

3. The Committee agreed that the situation has implications for safety of navigation and consistency of ENC services and therefore requires urgent study and resolution. As a result, the Committee decided to form a temporary Working Group (ENC Updating Working Group) tasked with developing proposals and to report its findings and recommendations to the first meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) at its inaugural meeting in 2009.

4. The Committee agreed that the ENC Updating Working Group (EUWG) would be chaired by France, with UK as Vice-Chair. The Terms of Reference for the EUWG (in English only) are contained in Annex B to this CL.

5. Member States wishing to participate in the EUWG should contact the Chairman of the EUWG Ing en chef Jean-Luc Dénier ([jean-luc.denier@shom.fr](mailto:jean-luc.denier@shom.fr)).

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

Captain Robert WARD  
Director

**20<sup>th</sup> CHRIS MEETING**  
**Niterói, RJ, Brazil, 3-7 November 2008**

***Paper for Consideration by CHRIS***

**Temporary (T) and Preliminary (P) Notices to be used with ENC's**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	France
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<p>The information contained in T and P notices to mariner must be used with ENC's. Inconsistency in the use and distribution of these notices by HO's has been highlighted by different committees or working groups and users. Many ships are now using paperless navigation, and the lack of use of T and P notices can be safety critical.</p> <p>A harmonisation of the solutions and practices is required.</p>
<b>Related Documents:</b>	CHRIS20-06.3A
<b>Related Projects:</b>	/

***Introduction / Background***

1. Usually, T and P notices are promulgated via HO's Notices to Mariners booklets which are available as paper and most often also on HO websites. On receipt, the information contained in T and P notices should be updated with a pencil on paper charts.
2. The information contained in these notices must be used in conjunction with ENC's, in whatever format it may be (ENC update, paper NtM, etc...). However, inconsistency in the use and distribution of T and P notices to mariners by HO's has been highlighted by different committees or working groups (RENC/JTEWG, TSMAD, WEND, ....) and users.

***Analysis/Discussion***

3. Among the raised issues and lack of harmonisation are the following:
  - about half of the HO's promulgate the equivalent of T and/or P notices via ENC updates, and the other half considers that mariners should refer to Notices to Mariners booklets or websites. That means that today, theoretically, ENC users must almost use as much different distribution channel as there is ENC producers.
  - Translation of T and P notices into ENC updates has proven to be sometimes difficult and inappropriate. It may also introduce inappropriate additional time delay for the distribution of this type of information. In addition, the production cost should be taken into account.

- Unavailability of the information in English language globally.

4. Consequently, at this time, it is very difficult for ENC users to comprehend the T and P notices network and get rapid and seamless information from one region to the other. In some cases, it can also become critical for safety of navigation.

5. A rapid and seamless network for navigational notices already exists on SafetyNET and on NAVTEX. May be, it could be extended to T and P notices (to see with CPRNW).

6. As recorded by CSPCWG (3rd meeting – November 2006), there is also a need for more precise guidance for the application of T and P notices to paper charts and the matter should be considered in relation to ENC.

### ***Conclusion***

7. The issue has been raised some years ago, and some committees or working groups are looking for solutions. Actions need to be coordinated and followed to enhance safety of navigation.

### ***Action Required of CHRIS***

8. The CHRIS is invited to confirm the need and the content of a new CHRIS action in order to:

- Follow the progress of harmonisation of the use, elaboration and distribution of T&P notices in general,
- In the short term, particularly follow the harmonisation and clarify the use of T&P to be used in conjunction with ENCs;
- Coordinate work between different committees and working groups (RENC/JTEWG, TSMAD, CSPCWG, CPRNW, etc).

**Additional comments by IHB:**

1. The lack of a consistent and efficient delivery mechanism for Temporary and Preliminary notices affecting ENC's is becoming an increasing cause for concern raised at ECDIS Stakeholders' Forums and in other user-based discussions (see CHRIS20-05.1B).
2. Guidance on the updating of ENC's is contained in S-52 Appendix 1. This was drafted by an IHO Updating WG between 1994-96 and approved in December 1996. These dates pre-date the distribution and use of ENC's and ECDIS and provide only general guidance based on anticipated rather than actual requirements. S-52 Appendix 1 has never been revised.
3. More generally, the whole of S-52 requires revision in order to account for the revised ECDIS Performance Standards adopted by IMO in 2006. This has been recommended by the CSMWG (See CHRIS20-06.3A).
4. S-57 and the S-57 ENC Product Specification provide mechanisms to encapsulate T&P notices through the use of the data attributes DATSTA (date start) and DATEND (date end); however, most HO's have not employed this facility, preferring either to use TXT files or to rely on the notices to mariners primarily intended for updating paper charts. In some cases the T&Ps are not in the mandatory ENC language of English.
5. The IMO Performance Standard for ECDIS does not specifically address T&P notices. As a consequence, IEC 61174 - *Test Specifications for ECDIS* do not call for any testing of this function. As a result, few ECDIS manufacturers have included a comprehensive function to read or process information attributed with DATSTA and DATEND.
6. Noting the history of this matter and the present situation, further guidance appears to be required as a matter of priority in order to ensure that mariners can obtain and incorporate T&P notices in ECDIS consistently, safely and efficiently. To achieve this, the CHRIS may wish to consider reactivating an Updating WG to.
  - a. develop and propose a pragmatic approach to overcome any current shortcomings in the updating mechanisms for T&P notices,
  - b. review and revise S-52 Appendix 1, as part of the general revision of S-52,
  - c. report to the HSSC in 2009.

## **ENC Updating Working Group (EUWG)**

### Terms of Reference

#### **1. Objective**

To develop contemporary guidance on standardized processes for the delivery and implementation of updates to ENCs.

#### **2. Authority**

The ENC Updating Working Group (EUWG) is a subsidiary of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) and its work is subject to HSSC approval.

#### **3. Procedures**

a. The EUWG shall:

- i. develop and propose a pragmatic approach to overcome any current shortcomings in the updating mechanisms for T&P notices in ENCs,
- ii. review and revise the updating mechanisms as contained in S-52 Appendix 1,
- iii. report to the HSSC in 2009 with recommendations as appropriate.

b. The EUWG shall take into account the CHRIS submission from France concerning Temporary and Preliminary Notices to Mariners used with ENCs (CHRIS20-06.1C).

c. The WG should work by correspondence unless a meeting is considered necessary to complete the assigned tasks.

d. The WG should liaise with the RENC Joint Technical Experts Working Group (JTEWG) and CSPCWG.

#### **4. Composition and Chairmanship**

a. The WG shall comprise representatives of IHO Member States (MS), the RENC JTEWG, Expert Contributors and Accredited NGIO Observers, all of whom have expressed their willingness to participate.

b. Member States, RENC JTEWG, Expert Contributors and Accredited NGIO Observers may indicate their willingness to participate at any time. A membership list shall be maintained.

c. Expert Contributor membership is open to entities and organisations that can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the WG.

d. The Chair of the WG shall be a representative from France. The vice-Chair shall be a representative from UK.

- e. Decisions should generally be made by consensus. If votes are required on issues or to endorse proposals presented to the WG, only MS may cast a vote. Votes shall be on the basis of one vote per MS represented. In the event that votes are required between meetings or in the absence of meetings, including for elections of a Chair or Vice-Chair, this shall be achieved through a postal ballot of those MS on the current membership list.
- f. If a secretary is required it should be a member of the WG
- g. If the Chair is unable to carry out the duties of the office, a Vice-Chair shall act as the Chair with the same powers and duties.
- h. Expert Contributors shall seek approval of membership from the Chair.
- i. Expert Contributor membership may be withdrawn in the event that a majority of the MS represented in the WG agree that an Expert Contributor's continued participation is irrelevant or unconstructive to the work of the WG.
- j. All members shall inform the Chair in advance of their intention to attend any meetings of the WG.
- k. In the event that a large number of Expert Contributor members seek to attend a meeting, the Chair may restrict attendance by inviting Expert Contributors to act through one or more collective representatives.