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CIRCULAR LETTER No. 5/2009
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**IHO PUBLICATION S-64 "ECDIS TEST DATA SETS"
New Edition 1.1, December 2008**

Ref: Circular Letter 79/2003 dated 23 December

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Standard IEC 61174 "*ECDIS - Operational and performance requirements, methods of testing and required test results*" was developed by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), to complement the IMO Performance Standards for ECDIS and the IHO Standards/Specifications related to ECDIS/ENC/RNC, so as to allow for the testing and certification of ECDIS equipment by type approval authorities. A revised (3rd Edition) of IEC 61174 was published in 2008.
2. IEC 61174 calls for an ENC Test Data Set, i.e. a standardized data set supplied on behalf of the IHO that is required to accomplish all IEC testing requirements for ECDIS. This data set is encoded according to the IHO S-57 *ENC product specification* and, when encrypted, makes use of the IHO S-63 *Data Protection Scheme*. IEC 61174 also calls for the associated ECDIS graphic plots conforming to the *IHO Presentation Library for ECDIS* (S-52, Appendix 2, Annex A). The IEC Standard further calls for an RNC Test Data Set, supplied by the IHO to accomplish IEC testing requirements for the RCDS mode of operation. This data set is encoded according to the S-61 *RNC Product Specification*.
3. The introduction of the 3rd Edition of IEC 61174 has meant that new test data sets are required. The necessary datasets and plots have now been produced on behalf of the IHO: the encrypted ENC test data has been produced by the UK Hydrographic Office; the unencrypted ENC test data by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); the ECDIS plots by the company Furuno Finland under the supervision of the IHO Digital Information Portrayal WG; and the RNC test data by the UKHO and the company Maptech, Inc, under a cooperative agreement with NOAA. In addition, an *Instruction Manual for ENC Test Data Sets* (Appendix of S-64) has been developed by IIC Technologies Inc. under contract to NOAA. All these test data sets and digital plots have been assembled to form Edition 1.1 of IHO publication S-64 "*ECDIS Test Data Sets*", dated December 2008. This revised edition is available from the IHO website (www.iho.int → Standards & Publications → S-64). It supersedes the previous edition announced in the reference.
4. The successful production of S-64 e1.1 is a very good example of IHO/Industry cooperation. The IHB is most appreciative to the above HOs and to the commercial companies involved for their valuable support in this endeavour.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Captain Robert WARD
Director