



IHB File No. S3/8152

CIRCULAR LETTER 35/2009  
10 June 2009

REQUEST TO REPORT NATIONAL STATUS OF ENC COVERAGE

Reference: 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary I.H. Conference Decision No. 14 – ENC Coverage

Dear Hydrographer,

1. At the XVIIth International Hydrographic Conference in May 2007, the IHO adopted two resolutions, which concluded that:

*... IHO Member States should adhere and comply with the IHO's World-wide Electronic Navigational Database (WEND) Principles, which provide technical details and procedures, in order to achieve adequate coverage, availability, consistency and quality of ENC's by 2010;*

(XVII IHC Decision 20)

and

*... The IHO strongly supports the efforts by IMO to introduce mandatory carriage requirements for ECDIS, emphasizing that a significant coverage of ENC's is already in place and will be further improved by 2010, as indicated in the DNV report (NAV 53/INF.3) and supported by IHO assessments ...*

(XVII IHC Decision 21)

2. In June 2009 the Member States of the IHO met at the 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (4EIHC). The 4EIHC reviewed the current and forecast status of global ENC coverage. While the forecast of ENC coverage for 2010 is generally good, Member States agreed that any potential gaps in coverage need to be identified now. As a result, Decision No. 14 of the 4EIHC directs the IHB to seek up-to-date reports from both Member States and non-Member States as to whether they will have adequate ENC coverage in place by 2010. The information from these reports will then be used to update the IHO's forecast of global ENC coverage thereby enabling the Regional Hydrographic Commissions and the IHO Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) WEND Working Group to consider remedial action if ENC coverage is not confirmed for certain areas.

3. "Adequate ENC coverage" in the context of the reports means:

"... being equivalent to the best available paper chart coverage of either a Hydrographic Office providing global coverage or the Hydrographic Office of the Coastal State."

In other words, where there is a paper chart already published to support international voyages, there should be a corresponding ENC by 2010.

4. Member States and the relevant authorities of non-Member States are requested to submit a response to the IHB not later than 1 August 2009 using the form in Annex A.

**CLOSING DATE FOR REPLIES: 1 August 2009**

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', with a period at the end.

Captain Robert WARD  
Director

Annex A: ENC Coverage Status Report

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Copied to: Non-Member States (as listed in the IHO Yearbook)

**ENC COVERAGE STATUS REPORT**

<b>Member State:</b>	
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<p>1. By 2010, where there are paper charts supporting international voyages, will there be corresponding coverage with ENCs? Yes or No?</p>
<p>If NO,</p>
<p>Which coastal areas will not be adequately covered with ENCs by 2010?</p>
<p>Which ports and harbours will not be adequately covered with ENCs by 2010?</p>

<p>2. Does your State need bilateral cooperation and assistance in order to meet the IHO's 2010 target date for ENC coverage? Yes or No?</p>
<p>Is bilateral assistance in place? Yes or No?</p>
<p>If YES, which State or States are assisting you already?</p>
<p>If NO, what sort of assistance do you require?</p>