

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONALE**

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IHB File No. S3/6000

**CIRCULAR LETTER 12/2010
29 January 2010**

REVIEW OF THE REPERTORY OF IHO RESOLUTIONS (M-3)

Reference: IHB CL 72/2009 dated 06 November

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The Work Programme for the 5-year period 2008-2012 approved by Member States at the XVIIth International Hydrographic Conference in 2007 includes the following work programme item:

Task 4.1.3: The IHB with the support of IHO bodies, to prepare a new edition of M-3 "IHO Technical and Administrative Resolutions" (2008-2009) and to keep it updated (2010-2012).

2 The Circular Letter at the reference concluded the work undertaken by the IHB and the Committees and Working Groups of the IHO to review the text of the resolutions as published in M-3. The IHB has now completed a review of the structure and format of M-3 and proposes the adoption of a revised 2nd Edition of M-3.

Current Edition

3 M-3 is currently divided into chapters each covering a certain topic. Chapters are labelled A to K (Technical Resolutions) and Q to T (Administrative Resolutions). Chapters are sub-divided into Sections which are numbered. Resolutions on adoption have been placed into one of these chapters and the resolution given a reference of the form XY.zz where "X" is the chapter label, Y is the section number and "zz" the sequential number within the section e.g. B2.12 would be the 12th resolution within section 2 of chapter B. Where the content of a resolution has been included in another publication and the resolution cancelled, the reference for the resolution has not been re-used. Over the years many resolutions have been cancelled either because their content is obsolete or because the information has been transferred to another IHO publication. For example most of Chapter B is now included in S-4 (Chart Specifications of the IHO and Regulations for International (INT) Charts) and all of Chapter D is included in S-12 (Standardization of List of Lights and Fog Signals). Consequently M-3 currently contains several empty or very sparsely populated sections and chapters.

Draft 2nd Edition

4 Whilst the concept of a unique reference for a resolution, and one that is not re-used, is highly desirable the current referencing system is not conducive to any rearrangement of the resolutions. Therefore in the draft 2nd Edition those resolutions which remain extant at the time of preparation

(January 2010) have been allocated a number of the format x/YYYY where YYYY is the year of first adoption of the resolution and x is the sequential number within that year. Where a resolution has been amended the words "as amended" are included in its reference e.g. "8/1962 as amended". This referencing system provides a unique reference but one that is not related to a resolution's position within the document. It is therefore independent of the proposed structure in the draft 2nd Edition and indeed of any future structure that might be adopted.

5 Each resolution within the draft 2nd Edition contains a header box which includes both the new reference and the former reference. Where a resolution has been amended this header box also includes the Circular Letter / International Hydrographic Conference reference of the latest amendment. Two indexes are included at the beginning of the publication, one ordered on the new numbering system and the other on the old system. In the digital pdf file these indexes are fully hyperlinked to the resolutions thereby facilitating an easy search whether using the new or old reference. The full amendment history of every resolution, including those previously deleted, is included in a separate trilingual Appendix, thereby facilitating research of a resolution's history without cluttering the repertory of resolutions itself.

6 In the draft 2nd Edition the resolutions have been grouped according to the three programmes identified in the IHO Strategic Plan i.e. "Corporate Affairs"; "Hydrographic Services and Standards"; and "Inter Regional Co-ordination and Support". Each "Programme" is further sub-divided into logical groupings. The contents page of the publication is fully hyperlinked to each section thereby allowing easy navigation to all the resolutions related to a given topic.

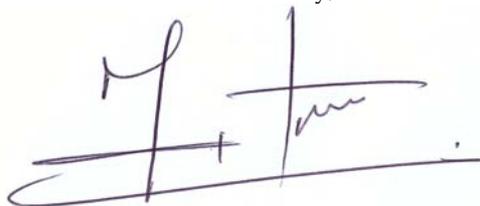
7 The resolutions, which have been written and amended over the 90 year history of the IHO, currently contain a variety of paragraph and sub-paragraph numbering. The opportunity has been taken during the preparation of the draft 2nd Edition to adopt a consistent numbering sequence across all resolutions. In no case has the content or intent of a resolution been changed. However this will require the amendment of some references in other IHO publications. This task will be undertaken by the IHB in due course. Future resolutions will be drafted in the same format.

8 As mentioned in paragraph 3 the current edition of M-3 is split into Technical Resolutions, chapters A to K, and Administrative Resolutions, Chapters Q to T. It is proposed that there is no such division in the 2nd Edition which will simply be the Repertory of IHO Resolutions.

9 The draft 2nd Edition of M-3 and its Appendix are available for download from the IHO web site at: http://www.iho-ohi.net/iho_pubs/IHO_Download.htm. The draft 2nd Edition has only been prepared in English. French and Spanish texts will be prepared if and when the 2nd Edition is adopted.

10 Member States are requested to review and consider the adoption of the 2nd Edition returning the voting form at Annex A to reach the IHB by 22 March 2010.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'A. Maratos', written over a horizontal line.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS,
President

VOTING FORM

*(to be returned to the IHB by 22 March 2010 via
E-mail: info@ihb.mc or Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)*

Member State:

Contact:..... **E-mail:**

ADOPTION OF 2nd Edition of M-3

Do you agree to the adoption of the 2nd Edition of M-3?

YES

NO

Comments if any:

Name / Signature Date: