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CIRCULAR LETTER 24/2010
08 March 2010

APPROVAL OF EDITION 6.0 OF S-52

- Specifications for Chart Content and Display Aspects of ECDIS

Reference: IHB CL 87/2009 dated 15 December

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The Directing Committee would like to thank the following 47 Member States who replied to CL 87/2009 proposing the adoption of Edition 6.0 of IHO Publication S-52 *Specifications for Chart Content and Display Aspects of ECDIS*: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Latvia, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, UK and USA.

2 All responses supported the proposal with six Member States providing comments which are included at Annex A, together with explanatory responses by the IHB as appropriate. There are currently 80 Member States of the IHO, two of whom have been suspended. Therefore in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article VI of the Convention on the IHO, the majority required on *questions concerning the technical functioning of the Organization* is 40. As a result of the 47 positive responses received, Edition 6.0 of IHO Publication S-52 *Specifications for Chart Content and Display Aspects of ECDIS* has been adopted.

3 Edition 6.0 of S-52 is now available for downloading from the IHO website at: http://www.iho-ohi.net/iho_pubs/standard/S52/S-52_e6.0_EN.pdf.

4. A translation of Edition 6.0 of S-52 into French will be undertaken when the limited resources available at the IHB allow. Regarding the development of a Spanish version, as suggested by Colombia, Member States are invited to volunteer for this task, or for translation into other languages.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Robert WARD
Director

Annex A: Member States' comments

MEMBER STATES' COMMENTS

Australia

Australia suggested a number of editorial improvements to the draft new edition.

Comment by the IHB:

Australia's editorial improvements have been incorporated in the final version of S-52.

Colombia

The new edition is approved. We agree that after comparing it to the previous edition, there are no changes that could considerably affect the ENC's layout and display, as the amendments in this new edition are basically in the form and structure. This does not imply neither to make changes in the ECDIS display systems nor the need to modify the capture and edition software for the production of ENC.

It should be considered, as far as possible, to include this publication (S-52) in your official home page, in Spanish, to avoid misinterpretations for some of your sections and annexes, having thus a fair way of consultation for all the Spanish speaking countries.

Comment by the IHB:

Translating S-52 e6.0 into Spanish is well beyond the Spanish translation resources available at the IHB. This can be achieved only if a Spanish speaking MS is prepared to assist.

France and Monaco

France and Monaco support the new edition providing IEC formally agrees the proposed changes and the date for the new edition to come into effect (March 2010), taking account of the cross-references between the two normative documents, i.e. S-52 and IEC 61174, which are both referenced in the ECDIS Performance Standards.

Comment by the IHB:

The differences between the 5th and 6th editions of S-52 are primarily changes to the format of the document and the updating of references. These changes should therefore not affect ECDIS type-approval certification. The IHB has created a supporting document that provides cross-references between IEC 61174 and the relevant parts of IHO S-52 Ed. 6.0 (see http://www.iho-ohi.net/iho_pubs/standard/S52/Updating_of_IEC61174_references_to_S-52.pdf). This document is published alongside S-52 Ed. 6.0 on the IHO website. The cross-reference document and S-52 Ed. 6.0 will be sent to all ECDIS stakeholders registered with the IHB.

Oman

The Sultanate is grateful for the work and effort which has been undertaken to rewrite this valuable publication. The Sultanate is in the process of taking the first steps towards developing an organic ENC capability and IHO publications such as S-52 and S-65 provide critical guidance.

Portugal

The Portuguese Hydrographic Office takes good note of the work completed by the DIPWG and in particular of its new and past Chairmen, Mr. Colby Harmon (USA-NOAA) and Dr. Mathias Jonas (BSH), respectively.