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CIRCULAR LETTER 33/2010
21 May 2010

APPROVAL OF EDITION 2.0 OF S-49
- Standardization of Mariners' Routeing Guides

Reference: IHB CL 18/2010 dated 9 February

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The Directing Committee would like to thank the following 43 Member States who replied to CL 18/2010 proposing the adoption of Edition 2.0 of IHO Publication S-49 - *Standardization of Mariners' Routeing Guides*: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Latvia, Malaysia, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, 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. Australia, France, Italy and Turkey suggested editorial improvements to the draft new edition, which have been incorporated in the final version of S-49.

3 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 43 positive responses received, Edition 2.0 of IHO Publication S-49 - *Standardization of Mariners' Routeing Guides* has been adopted.

4 Edition 2.0 of S-49 is now available for downloading from the IHO website at: http://www.iho-ohi.net/iho_pubs/standard/S49/S-49_e2.0_EN.pdf.

5 A translation of Edition 2.0 of S-49 into French will be undertaken when the limited resources available at the IHB allow. Regarding the development of a Spanish version, or versions in other languages, Member States are invited to volunteer for this task.

6 The IHB Directing Committee is grateful to the Chart Standardisation and Paper Chart Working Group for monitoring this development and to Germany for providing the leader of the S-49 sub-Working Group that undertook the revision.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Robert WARD
Director

Annex A: Member States' comments

MEMBER STATES' COMMENTS

FRANCE

In paragraph 3.3.4, point N2.1, replace "Recommendations" with "Resolutions".

Comment by the IHB:

Verbatim IMO resolutions are not included in MRGs, but the rules and recommendations that come from them may do so. The text of N2.1 has been slightly amended to improve clarity.

KOREA (Rep. of)

KHOA thanks CSPCWG for its contribution in developing this new edition 2.0 of S-49 standard. As the new 2.0 Ed S-49 standard takes the modern navigational environment into account, it is thought that adoption of S-49 2.0 standard is suitable.

MALAYSIA

- The use of acronyms and abbreviations which are deemed unfamiliar to the average navigator are to be spelt out, and not omitted from MRG.
- Apart from the 7 published MRG, any additional is to be consulted with IMO on areas which have large number of mishaps and to have a MRG available
- To identify and include highly dense favourite route of ferry crossing to ports as matter considered ESSENTIAL instead of USEFUL as it represent possible hazards to navigation.

Comment by the IHB:

Minor adjustments have been made to section 2.6 to improve clarity of wording with reference to 'acronyms and abbreviations', to help those for whom English is not a first language. Malaysia's other comments have been forwarded to CSPCWG for further consideration.

OMAN

The standardization of Mariners' Routeing Guides is fully supported. The Sultanate would like to thank the CSPCWG on their work and efforts in the revision of this important publication. The Sultanate does question the need for INT Chart status.

Comment by the IHB:

Oman's comment on INT status of MRGs has been forwarded to CSPCWG for further consideration.

ROMANIA

Romania is grateful for the work and effort which has been undertaken to rewrite this valuable publication

UNITED KINGDOM

The CSPCWG and its sub-Working Group, led by Germany, are to be commended on the development of this new edition of S-49.