



THIS CIRCULAR LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE

IHB File No. S3/8151/HSSC

**CIRCULAR LETTER 70/2010
02 November 2010**

RECOMMENDATION BY HSSC FOR IHO TO ADOPT S-99 AS AN IHO STANDARD

- References: a) CL 83/2009 dated 4 December - *Adoption of S-100 as an Active Standard*
b) CL 04/2010 dated 11 January - *1st HSSC Meeting, Singapore, 22-24 October 2009*
c) CL29/2010 dated 6 April - *2nd HSSC Meeting, Rostock, Germany, 26-29 October 2010*

Dear Hydrographer,

Introduction

1 The Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC), at its first meeting held in October 2009 (HSSC-1), recommended that Member States adopt S-100 as the contemporary framework standard for hydrographic geospatial information, effective 1 January 2010. Member States adopted S-100 in December 2009 (see Reference a).

2 Among other things, S-100 describes components for a Geospatial Information Registry (GI Registry) for managing feature concept dictionaries, feature portrayal and product specifications. The S-100 GI Registry is already being used by a number of HSSC Working Groups for developing such things as the S-101 ENC Product Specification and a new digital standard for nautical publications data. Other organizations, outside the IHO, such as the Inland ENC Harmonization Group (IEHG), the UN Department of Administration of the Law of the Sea (UN DOALOS) and the World Meteorological Organization group on Ice Thickness and Snow on Ice (WMO-ITSI) are also using the IHO GI Registry to support their product specifications developments for Inland ENCs, extended continental shelf claims and sea ice reporting, respectively. At the same time, the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) and the IMO Correspondence Group on e-Navigation are expressing an increasing interest in using the S-100 GI Registry to support their complementary maritime data requirements and the e-Navigation concept in the future. This is all very much in keeping with the philosophy behind introducing S-100 as a flexible, extensible, contemporary standard that encourages the widest possible use of hydrographic data and information standards beyond the fields of hydrography and nautical charting.

3 In anticipation of the widespread use of the GI Registry, HSSC-1 instructed the Transfer Standards Maintenance and Application Development Working Group (TSMAD) in consultation with the IHB, "to develop as a high priority work item detailed operational processes and business rules for S-100 register management" (see Reference b, Annex A, Action HSSC1/13). This work has resulted in a document, to be designated as S-99, that describes the roles, responsibilities and procedures for operating and managing the S-100 GI Registry and its component Registers. The draft version of S-99 was considered at the 2nd meeting of HSSC (see Reference c). There were no adverse comments from MS delegates or Observers representing non-IHO stakeholders. HSSC-2 recommended that S-99 be adopted as an IHO standard.

S-99

4 IHO Publication S-99 is intended as a complement to S-100 by describing the management arrangements for the S-100 GI Registry. A copy of the draft IHO publication S-99 is available from the IHO website www.iho.int > Committees & WG > HSSC > HSSC2 Documents > S-99 draft version 1.0.0, or follow the link:

http://www.iho-ohi.net/mtg_docs/com_wg/HSSC/HSSC2/S99_DRAFT_RulesforManagementofGIR_registrypostHSSC.pdf

5 S-99 sets out how the S-100 GI Registry and its component Registers are already being operated, and is based on the practical experience gained over the two years that the S-100 GI Registry has been under final development and implementation.

6 S-99 describes a straightforward and open operational and governance structure with the Registry and its component Registers being regulated by a minimal number of Control Bodies. The five Registers comprising the Registry are notionally subdivided into main and supplementary parts, with register entries being allocated to a Domain. The recognition of Domains and Domain Representatives in Control Bodies means that all stakeholders – both IHO and non-IHO, are represented in the governance and management structure if they wish to be. However, the structure does not depend on the active and constant participation of non-IHO stakeholders. This is important because not all stakeholders will wish to remain actively involved after their immediate requirements for the Registry have been met.

Summary

7 The adoption of S-99 will provide an authoritative reference for the practical management and governance of the S-100 GI registry. It will ensure that the S-100 GI Registry is properly regulated and administered in an efficient and responsive manner. At the same time, the level of administration has been minimised to reduce any unnecessary burden on Member States, Stakeholders, Submitting Organizations or Registry Users.

Voting Required

8 Member States are requested to consider the recommendation of the HSSC to adopt S-99 as an IHO standard to enter force on 1 January 2011 and to indicate their support using the Voting Paper, provided in Annex A, by 31 December 2010. A simple majority of all Member States is required to agree the adoption of S-99 as an IHO standard. This majority is currently 40 Member States.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Robert WARD
Director, IHB

Annex A: Voting Form

IHB File No. S3/8151/HSSC

VOTING FORM

*(to be returned to the IHB by **31 December 2010**)*

E-mail: info@ihb.mc - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|--|
| Member State | | | |
| Point of Contact: | | E-mail: | |

ADOPTION OF S-99 AS AN IHO STANDARD

1. Do you agree that S-99 should enter into force as an IHO Standard from 1 January 2011? Yes or No:

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Comments (if required)

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Name/Signature:Date: