



IHB File N° S3/3084

CIRCULAR LETTER 74/2010
11 November 2010

PROMULGATION OF MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION
DRAFT REVISED NAVTEX MANUAL

Reference: IHB CL 65/2010 dated 12 October

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The IHB would like to thank the following 14 Member States who provided comments on the draft revised NAVTEX Manual: Algeria; Argentina; Belgium; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Greece; Iceland; Peru; Russian Federation; South Africa; Spain; Sweden and the UK. The text was also circulated to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO). A revised draft, which will now be submitted to the IMO for adoption, has been prepared and can be downloaded from the IHO web site at:

<http://www.iho.int/english/committees-wg/ircc/wwwnws.html>

2 At the reference the IHB indicated that it was intending to propose an amendment to resolution MSC.148(77) which is included at Annex 3 to the draft manual. Following further discussion with representatives of the IEC and ITU the IHB has been advised that such a revision is not necessary. The text of Annex 3 is therefore now a direct reproduction of resolution MSC.148(77).

3 The IHB has also been informed that ITU may decide to delete "Recommendation ITU-R M.540" which is currently included as Annex 2 to the draft revised manual and is referenced in the text. Much of the information in M.540 has already been included in the main body of the draft revised manual and the secretary of the WNWNS Document Review WG has drafted some further amendments to the manual to incorporate the missing information should this become necessary at COMSAR 15.

4 The Submission to COMSAR 15 will also include the recommendation that COMSAR/Circ.28 (International NAVTEX Service) and COMSAR/Circ.34 (Clarification of the use of NAVTEX B₃B₄ Characters = 00 and NAVTEX Service Areas) be withdrawn as the information they contain is fully reflected in the revised draft NAVTEX Manual.

5 The submission to COMSAR will be made jointly with the WMO and IMSO.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President