



IHB File S3/8151/HSSC

CIRCULAR LETTER 86/2010  
10 December 2010

**IHO HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES & STANDARDS COMMITTEE (HSSC)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting, Rostock, Germany, 26-29 October 2010**

- References:
- a) CL 29/2010 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC); 26-29 October 2010, Rostock, Germany
  - b) CL 60/2010 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) - Chairman's Letter of Welcome
  - c) CL 70/2010 - Recommendation by HSSC for IHO to adopt S-99 as an IHO Standard

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The second meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC-2) was held in Rostock, Germany from 26-29 October 2010, hosted by the German Hydrographic Service. The HSSC oversees the technical program of the IHO. The meeting was attended by 62 delegates from 26 countries and 7 Non-Governmental International Organizations (NGIO's) and sister intergovernmental organizations.

2 The final minutes of HSSC-2, together with all documents referred to at this meeting, are available on the IHO website ([www.iho-ohi.net/mtg\\_docs/com\\_wg/HSSC/HSSC2/HSSC2Docs.htm](http://www.iho-ohi.net/mtg_docs/com_wg/HSSC/HSSC2/HSSC2Docs.htm)). A list of actions arising from the meeting is provided in Annex F to the minutes. Those actions for the IHB are being undertaken. The main points discussed at the meeting are summarized below.

***S-99 Management rules and procedures for the operation of the S-100 Geospatial Information Registry***

3 The work of HSSC's ten subordinate Working Groups was examined. Of particular note was the endorsement of S-99 - *Management rules and procedures for the operation of the S-100 Geospatial Information Registry (GI Registry)*. As a result, the HSSC decided to recommend that IHO Member States adopt S-99 as an active standard from 1 January 2011 (see reference c).

4 The Committee was informed that the S-100 GI Registry is already being used by a number of HSSC Working Groups to develop 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 to encourage the widest possible use of hydrographic data and information standards beyond the fields of hydrography and nautical charting.

### **Operating anomalies identified in some ECDIS**

5 The Committee learned of certain shortcomings in the way that the governing IHO standards for ECDIS may have been inappropriately implemented by some equipment manufacturers and the potential consequences for safety of navigation. As a result, the committee agreed that the ECDIS test data set should be enhanced and recommended that an urgent meeting be arranged between the relevant stakeholders, including IHO, ECDIS manufacturers, equipment type-approval authorities, and maritime Administrations.

### **Other topics**

6 Other notable topics discussed included proposals concerning the HSSC input to the IHO Strategic Planning Process, and in particular ways to reduce the number of recommended Performance Indicators to a more manageable level. The Committee also provided input by way of a list of strategic topics that were forwarded to the Directing Committee as part of developing the 2013-2017 Plan.

### **Next meeting**

7 The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of HSSC will be held between 31 October and 4 November 2011 at the IHB, Monaco, unless a proposal to host the meeting is received from a Member State before end February 2011.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', is centered on the page.

Robert WARD  
Director