



THIS CIRCULAR LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE

IHB File S3/7330

CIRCULAR LETTER 41/2011
18 July 2011

PROPOSED NEW EDITION OF ANNEX A TO APPENDIX B.1 OF S-57 - USE OF THE OBJECT CATALOGUE FOR ENC

- References:
- a) IHB CL 60/2002 dated 4 December – S-57 – *Future Developments and Current Status*
 - b) HSSC-2 paper HSSC2-05.1E - *Reopening of Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC*
 - c) IHB CL 86/2010 dated 10 December - *IHO Hydrographic Services & Standards Committee (HSSC), 2nd Meeting, Rostock, Germany, 26-29 October 2010*

Dear Hydrographer,

1 Reference a) reported on the “freezing” of all portions of IHO standard S-57, including Annex A to its Appendix B.1 - *Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC* (UOC). The edition of the UOC currently in force is Edition 2.1 dated April 2002.

2 The purpose of the UOC is to integrate the contents of the S-57 Object and Attribute Catalogues and provide a straightforward reference to follow when encoding ENCs. The UOC contains the Object and Attribute combinations from S-57 Appendix A - *IHO Object Catalogue* and other information from S-57 Appendix B.1 - *ENC Product Specification* along with general remarks. The UOC is intended to be the first point of reference for ENC producers regarding encoding practice.

3 As a result of *freezing* S-57 and its UOC component, it has been necessary to depend on Encoding Bulletins and other documents, such as S-65 - *ENC Production Guidance*, to allow updates and improved guidance on encoding practices to be promulgated. As a result ENC data encoders now have to consult a wide range of documents in order to find specific and up-to-date information on data encoding.

4 *Unfreezing* the UOC would allow important information currently lodged in other documents to be incorporated into the UOC, thereby enhancing ease of use and promoting consistency in the production of ENC data. Encoding Bulletins would then only be required to highlight the most recent changes to encoding practice pending their subsequent incorporation in the UOC when it is revised periodically under the rules documented in IHO Resolution 2/2007 - *Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications*.

5 Following a proposal (see reference b)) from the Chairman of the Transfer Standard and Development Applications Working Group (TSMAD), the Hydrographic Standards and Services Committee (HSSC), at its 2nd meeting (Rostock, Germany, 26-29 October 2010), recommended that the UOC be “un-frozen” and that a revised version be prepared by TSMAD for subsequent adoption by Member States (see reference c)). The revised version has now been completed and the draft edition (3.0.0) of the UOC is available for inspection on the IHO website at <http://www.iho.int> > Standards & Publications > Downloads > [Draft Publications Awaiting Approval by Member States](#)

6 The Draft edition 3.0.0 of the UOC incorporates all extant Encoding Bulletins, including the most recent amendments (June 2011) to Encoding Bulletin 1 concerning navigational lines and recommended tracks, deep water route centrelines, and recommended routes.

7 The UOC, by its nature, does not affect the use of S-57 by ECDIS manufacturers as it is intended for use primarily by ENC producers as a reference for encoding data. In any case, new and subsequent editions of the UOC would be subject to the following principles:

- Any changes must not adversely affect any ECDIS which would use data produced using the new edition.
- The new edition must only be used in the production of new ENC data; there is no requirement to recompile or change existing ENC data.

8 Member States are requested to consider the HSSC recommendation to unfreeze S-57 Appendix B.1, Annex A *Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC* and to adopt the revised edition prepared by TSMAD, and to indicate support by returning the Voting Paper, provided in Annex A, **by 15 September 2011**.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Robert WARD
Director

Encl: Annex A

VOTING FORM
(to be returned to the IHB by 15 September 2011
E-mail: info@ihb.mc - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

Member State:

Contact:

E-mail:

ADOPTION OF EDITION 3.0.0 OF S-57 APPENDIX B.1, ANNEX A

1. Do you approve that S-57 Appendix B.1, Annex A - *Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC* be unfrozen by introducing edition 3.0.0 of S-57 Appendix B.1, Annex A?

YES

NO

Comments (if required)

Name/Signature:Date: