



IHB File S3/8151/HSSC

CIRCULAR LETTER 15/2012  
06 February 2012

IHO HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES & STANDARDS COMMITTEE (HSSC)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting, Monaco, 8-10 November 2011

References:

- a) CL 27/2011 dated 24 March - 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC), 8-10 November 2011, IHB, Monaco
- b) CL 10/2012 dated 30 January - New IHO Publication S-102 "Bathymetric Surface Product Specification" - Request for Member State approval of Edition 1.0.0
- c) CL 09/2012 dated 30 January - IHO Publication S-64 "IHO Test Data Sets for ECDIS" - Request for Member State approval of Edition 2.0.0
- d) CL 03/2012 dated 6 January - Proposal to exempt certain changes to S-100 from the requirement for formal approval by Member States
- e) CL 11/2012 dated 31 January - Hydrographic Dictionary (S-32)
- f) CL 12/2012 dated 2 February - IHO Publications S-52 appendix 1 "Guidance on Updating the Electronic Navigational Chart", Edition 4.0.0, and S-65 "ENCs, Production, Maintenance and Distribution Guidance", Edition 2.0.0. Request for Member State approval of the new editions.

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The third meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC-2) was held at the IHB, Monaco from 8-10 November 2011 as promulgated in ref a). The HSSC oversees the technical program of the IHO. The meeting was attended by 59 delegates from 23 countries, the Chair of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee and five representatives of Non-Governmental International Organizations (NGIO's) and sister intergovernmental organizations.

2 The final minutes of HSSC-3, together with all documents referred to at this meeting, are available on the IHO website ([https://www.iho.int/mtg\\_docs/com\\_wg/HSSC/HSSC3/HSSC3Docs.htm](https://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/HSSC/HSSC3/HSSC3Docs.htm)). A list of actions arising from the meeting is provided in Annex E to the minutes. Those actions for the IHB have been or will be undertaken as soon as possible. The main points discussed at the meeting are summarized below.

### S-100 and related Product Specifications

3 The work of HSSC's ten subordinate Working Groups was examined. The Committee was brought up to date on the development of S-100 - *The Universal Hydrographic Data Model* and the significant interest being shown in the S-100 standard by non Member State organisations. The Transfer Standards and Maintenance Applications Development Working Group (TSMAD) reported good progress on developing the S-100 based ENC Product Specification S-101, as well as the completion of the new publication S-102 *Bathymetric Surface Product Specification*, a data exchange standard for bathymetric data, and of a revised edition of S-64 *IHO Test Data Sets for ECDIS*. Both of the editions of S-102 and S-64 were endorsed by the Committee and have already been submitted to Member States for approval (see references b) and c), respectively). The Committee further tasked TSMAD to investigate expanding S-64 to improve its usefulness for both OEMs and type approval authorities, and to restructure S-58 *Recommended ENC Validation Checks* and investigate the feasibility of a minimum validation check standard for ENC. The Committee endorsed a proposal from TSMAD that Resolution 2/2007 *Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications* be amended to indicate that while S-100 is an IHO standard as defined in Resolution

2/2007, it should be subject to a different maintenance routine, in particular, that TSMAD may approve revisions and clarifications to S-100 when considered to be necessary. This has been the subject of reference d).

#### Revision of IHO Standards

- 4 In reviewing the reports of the Working Groups, the Committee also:
- agreed a revision of S-52 Annex A *IHO Presentation Library for ECDIS*, including in relation to aspects of S-64, following a proposal from UK;
  - endorsed 72 new or revised definitions for inclusion in S-32 – *Hydrographic Dictionary*, and revised “business rules” for S-32, which have been submitted to Member States for approval (see reference e));
  - endorsed revised editions of S-65 *Guidance for Production, Maintenance and Distribution of ENCs* and S-52, Appendix 1 *Guidance on Updating the ENC*, which have been submitted to Member States for approval (see reference f)).

#### Revision of IEC 61174

5 Noting that the revision of IEC 61174 *ECDIS – Operational and performance requirements, methods of testing and required test results* is now in the program for IEC TC80, with an anticipated completion date of 2014, and that CIRM intends to raise an initial revised draft of IEC 61174 for consideration by IEC TC80 in 2012, the Committee agreed that IHO Member States should assist the CIRM ECDIS WG in this effort and invited the IHB to coordinate this assistance. UK, Germany and France indicated interest in participating in this work. Member States are therefore requested to consider assisting the CIRM ECDIS WG in this development and providing the names of their representatives to the IHB **before 15 March 2012**.

#### Other topics

- 6 Other notable topics discussed included:
- The approval of programmes of revision for various ECDIS-related standards to address recently identified operating and implementation anomalies in ECDIS being used at sea.
  - General support for IHC-18 Pro3 – *Encouraging the IHO to continue taking a leading role in facilitating the resolution of ECDIS issues*, and for further discussion at the Conference on Pro 2 – *Ensuring the IHB has sufficient technical resource to support Member States and the Working Groups*.
  - General support for a joint IRCC / HSSC submission to the XVIII<sup>th</sup> IHC that will put in place procedures for developing and holding biennial IHO Stakeholders’ forum meetings.
  - Agreement that there is no need to consider revising S-44 *IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys*.
  - Agreement on a list of IHO technical standards that should be subject to the terms of Resolution 2/2007.

#### Next meeting

7 The venue for HSSC-4 is tentatively proposed in Monaco, unless an alternative venue is offered by a State. Further, in order to prevent a possible clash with the 2012 ABLOS and GEBCO meetings which will be held at the IHB in the first week of October, the period for convening HSSC-4 will be in the second half of September 2012, preferably the last week of September. Member States are therefore requested to consider hosting HSSC-4 and to inform the IHB accordingly **before 15 March 2012**.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,



Robert WARD  
Director