



THIS CIRCULAR LETTER REQUIRES A RESPONSE

IHB File No. S3/4006

CIRCULAR LETTER 51/2012
18 May 2012

CONTINUOUS PROVISION OF ENCs AND RNCs TO THE IHB

Reference: General Regulations of the IHO - Article 19

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Article 19 of IHO General Regulations states:

To enable the Bureau to achieve its purpose, the Hydrographic Offices of Member governments shall forward copies of their new international (INT) charts, electronic charts (raster and vector), as well as any nautical publications.

At present, Member States regularly provide copies of all New Editions of their INT paper charts. Few Member States provide copies of ENCs or RNCs.

2. During the XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference, the Directing Committee described progress on various database developments at the IHB. One of these developments concerns the compilation of a global electronic chart collection to complement the collection on INT paper charts and publications maintained at the IHB.

3. The establishment of an IHB reference collection of digital charts has recently been made possible through the donation by Australia of AusChartviewer- a comprehensive and sophisticated desktop viewing and analysis tool for HCRF Raster Navigational Charts (RNCs), IHO S.57 / S.63 Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) and GeoTIFF map images. AusChartviewer does not support the BSB format for RNCs. Among the many functions of AusChartviewer it is possible to compare different editions of the same ENC, overlapping cells, cells at different scales, and the corresponding paper charts or other data, if required.

4. A very significant benefit of establishing a comprehensive IHO reference collection of Member States' up-to-date digital charts is that the metadata derived from an authoritative IHB collection supplied by Member States can then be used directly to populate the IHO ENC catalogue (at: <http://iho-wms.net/wms/ENCatFrame.htm>). This will ensure that the IHO ENC catalogue is kept up to date - something that has been difficult to achieve so far.

5. Another significant benefit of maintaining an up to date digital chart collection will be the ability for the IHB to provide a web mapping and web feature service based on the authoritative metadata derived directly from the IHO ENC collection.

6. In order to establish the IHO reference collection of authorised digital charts Member States are requested to make the following arrangements as soon as possible:

For Member States that distribute ENCs via a RENC:

- authorise your RENC to supply ENCs and updates directly to the IHB

For Member States that do not distribute ENCs via a RENC:

- authorise your ENC distributor to supply ENCs and updates directly to the IHB

For Member States that also provide an HCRF RNC service:

- authorise your HCRF RNC distributor to supply HCRF RNCs and updates directly to the IHB
6. Member States are requested to inform the IHB as soon as arrangements have been put in place, using the response form at Annex A.
 7. Member States should note in particular that after the IHB ENC collection is established, the only way that ENC coverage for their State will be reflected in the IHO catalogue will be through the regular provision of up to date ENCs to the IHB. It is therefore important that all ENC Producers ensure that their ENCs are made available to the IHB.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,



Robert WARD
Director

Annex A Response Form

RESPONSE FORM*(to be returned to the IHB as soon as is convenient**E-mail: info@iho.int - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)*

MemberState:	
Contact name:	
Contact E-mail:	

CONTINUOUS PROVISION OF ENC'S AND RNC'S TO THE IHB

1. Arrangements have been made for the continuous provision to the IHB of ENC's and RNC's (where applicable).
2. Supply arrangements are as follows:

	Name of distributing organisation	Point of contact in distributing organisation
ENC's and updates		
HCRF RNCs and updates		

Name/Signature:Date: