



IHB File No.S3/3055

CIRCULAR LETTER 57/2012
30 May 2012

**90th SESSION OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME ORGANIZATION**

Reference: a) IHB CL 36/2012 dated 27 March 2012 (Outcome of COMSAR16)

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The 90th session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Maritime Safety Committee (MSC90) was held at the IMO Headquarters in London from 16 - 25 May 2012. Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS, Captain Robert WARD and Assistant Directors SHIPMAN and WYATT represented the IHO.

Report of COMSAR16

2 The MSC took action on the urgent matters emanating from the 16th session of the Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR16), as reported at the reference, in particular:

- .1 Approval of the withdrawal of COMSAR/Circ.36 concerning the broadcast of warnings for tsunamis and other natural disasters with effect from 1 January 2013 following the revision of the WWNWS documentation.
- .2 Approval of the draft revision of Annex 8 to MSC/Circ.1382/Rev.1 on the questionnaire on shore-based facilities for the global distress and safety system (GMDSS) and instructed its inclusion in the revised draft MSC circular set out in Annex 5 of COMSAR15/16.
- .3 Approval of a draft revised Work Plan on the "Review and modernisation of the GMDSS" with a target completion year of 2017 and the submission of progress reports to each session of the COMSAR, NAV and STW sub-committees.

Development of an e-Navigation Strategy Implementation Plan

3 MSC noted that COMSAR, in relation to the development of an e-navigation strategy and the gap analysis, had endorsed the final draft list of gaps relevant to radiocommunications and search and rescue and instructed that the list be forwarded to STW38 and NAV58 for final consideration.

4 MSC noted the progress made on the development of an e-navigation strategy and the establishment of a correspondence group to further progress the work. MSC90 approved:

- .1 the current overarching e-navigation architecture;

- .2 the proposed way forward for developing a Common Maritime Data Structure;
- .3 the use of IHO's S-100 standard as the baseline for creating a framework for data access and services under the scope of SOLAS;
- .4 the proposed joint plan of work on e-navigation for COMSAR, NAV and STW sub-committees for the period 2012-2014.

5 It was also agreed, for the present, that no further action was required until future uses of the frequency band of 495-505 kHz were identified for e-navigation.

6 The Chairman of the e-navigation correspondence group informed the committee that, as part of the development of the IMO e-navigation concept, the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA), assisted by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and IMO's Marine Electronic Highway (MEH) project in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, had hosted a two- day test bed workshop in Singapore from 19 to 20 April 2012, using the IHO S-100 standard to provide the data model. It concluded that:

- .1 the IHO S-100 standard could be extended and further developed to meet the emerging requirements of e-navigation;
- .2 the development of the MEH should draw from aspects of e-navigation; such as, systems, architecture and the IHO S-100 standard, to generate maximum synergies.

7 In addition, Norway expects to carry out a similar test-bed project in the high Arctic region. The test-bed would be based on the IHO S-100 standard, and would include LRIT infrastructure, which might be suitable for a shore based e-navigation network in the future.

IMO/IHO Harmonisation Group on Data Modelling

8 The MSC authorised the establishment of an IMO/IHO Harmonisation Group on Data Modelling and approved its terms of reference. The principal roles of the group are to provide the overarching coordination to ensure the creation and maintenance of a robust and extendable maritime data structure. The group will comprise representatives of both IMO and IHO Member States.

Operating anomalies identified within ECDIS

9 The MSC considered document MSC90/10/1 submitted by the IHO reporting on the activities undertaken by the IHO since MSC89, with respect to "Operating anomalies identified within ECDIS" and documents MSC90/10/2 and MSC90/10/3 submitted by the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), Australia, and the UK commenting on the IHO submission. The MSC noted the discussions at COMSAR16 and that STW43 had considered the matter and updated the ECDIS model training course syllabus.

10 The MSC recognised that there was a need to raise the awareness of mariners to the operating anomalies of ECDIS and the advice of the possible need to continue to carry paper charts in some cases. The MSC:

- .1 invited the IHO to re-promulgate the IHO ECDIS/ENC Data Portrayal and Performance check data set to ensure that all appropriate ECDIS installations are checked including all known manufacturers' ECDIS models;
- .2 encourage all appropriate agencies and organisations to help identify the extent and severity of ECDIS anomalies as a matter of urgency so that the impact on the safety of navigation can be established;
- .3 invited ECDIS manufacturers to make information regarding anomalies widely available to reduce the risk;

.4 agreed that, at present, there was no immediate need to establish a standing body, recognising that the IHO, in co-operation with all interested entities and the IMO, was already actively involved in this activity.

11 The MSC noted the information provided and the actions requested in relation to operating anomalies with ECDIS and agreed that this matter should be considered by the 58th session of the Safety of Navigation Sub-Committee (NAV58) which will be held at the IMO headquarters in London from 2-6 July 2012.

Work Programme Issues

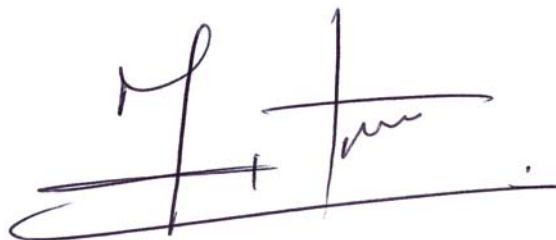
12 The MSC considered document MSC90/25/13 submitted by Australia, Canada, the UK, ICS, Nautical Institute (NI) and IHO, with respect to the "Consolidation of ECDIS-related IMO circulars". MSC fully supported the proposal, agreed to place this on the Work Programme for NAV and agreed that this matter should be considered by NAV58.

13 The MSC considered document MSC90/25/14 submitted by Australia, UK, NI and IHO, with respect to the "Clarification to SOLAS Regulation V/27" and the two follow up papers: MSC90/25/18 submitted by ICS; and MSC90/25/20 submitted by Germany. MSC supported the proposal with the extension submitted by Germany to review relevant references and outdated footnotes and agreed to put this on the Work Programme for NAV with a target date of 2014 and agreed that this matter should be considered by NAV58.

MSC90 Report and Dates for MSC91

14 The full report of MSC 90 (MSC90/28) will be posted on the IHO web site as soon as it is published by the IMO. The 91st session of the MSC is currently scheduled to be held at IMO Headquarters in London from 26 - 30 November 2012.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Maratos', written over a horizontal line.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President