



IHB File N° S3/8152

CIRCULAR LETTER 90/2012  
29 October 2012

### ENCODING OF ALL-ROUND (OMNI-DIRECTIONAL) LIGHTS IN ENC

Dear Hydrographer,

- 1 The IHB Directing Committee was recently informed by the Chair of the Transfer Standard Maintenance and Application Development Working Group (TSMAD) of an urgent issue of navigational significance related to the encoding and display of all-round (or omni-directional) lights in ENC.
- 2 Clause 12.8.1 of Edition 3.0.0 (October 2011) of the *Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC* (S-57 Appendix B1, Annex A) provides guidance for the encoding of lights, including the population of the attributes SECTR1 (Sector limit one) and SECTR2 (Sector limit two), where it is stated that these attributes are “*only for sector lights*”.
- 3 It appears that in some cases lights that are visible all-round have been encoded as LIGHTS objects with attributes SECTR1 = 0 and SECTR2 = 360. It has been reported that, in some ECDIS, LIGHTS objects which have been encoded in this way are displayed as a single dashed line, with no light flare or coloured “halo” to indicate that the light is visible all-round. This may result in screen clutter on some ECDIS displays (see screenshot in annex A to this letter) and could potentially confuse the mariner.
- 4 In accordance with its Terms of Reference (Annex 1), TSMAD has published temporary ENC Encoding Bulletin 53 (reproduced in Annex B to this letter), which advises ENC producers that the attributes SECTR1 and SECTR2 must not be populated for lights that are visible all-round.
- 5 A copy of Encoding Bulletin 53 has been sent directly to those producers of ENCs that are known to be encoding all round lights using the attributes SECTR1 and SECTR2. All other IHO Member States are strongly encouraged to review their ENCs to ensure that information related to all-round lights is encoded as explained in Encoding Bulletin 53 and should take any corrective action if necessary.
- 6 Chairs of Regional Hydrographic Commissions are also requested to ensure that any ENC producers in their region that are not Member States of the IHO, are informed and invited to take similar action.
- 7 Member States are invited to inform the Directing Committee, with copy to TSMAD Chair, of any difficulty, feedback or comments at their earliest convenience.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gilles Bessero', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

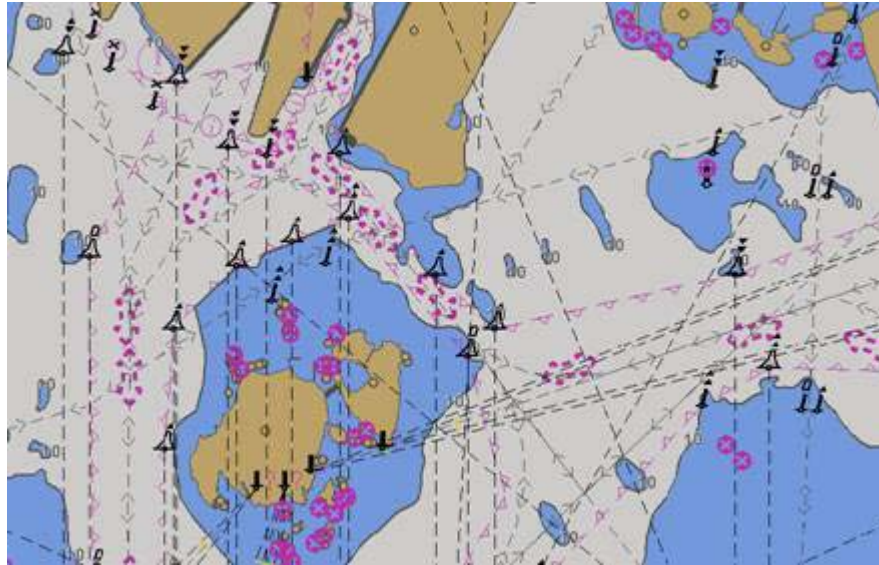
Gilles BESSERO  
Director

Copy to: IC-ENC  
PRIMAR

**Annexes:**

- A. ECDIS Screenshot displaying all-round lights with improper encoding of SECTR1 and SECTR2 attributes
- B. Encoding Bulletin 53

**ECDIS Screenshot displaying all-round lights with improper encoding of SECTR1 and SECTR2 attributes**



## Encoding Bulletin 53

## EB53 - UOC Clause 12.8.1 Description of lights

Clause 12.8.1 of Edition 3.0.0 (October 2011) of the *Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC* (S-57 Appendix B1, Annex A) provides guidance for the encoding of lights, including the population of the attributes SECTR1 and SECTR2. It is stated that the attributes SECTR1 and SECTR2 are “*only for sector lights*”.

In some cases lights that are visible all-round (omni-directional) have been encoded as **LIGHTS** objects with attributes SECTR1 = 0 and SECTR2 = 360. It has been reported that in some ECDIS **LIGHTS** objects which have been encoded in this way symbolize as a single dashed line, with no light flare or coloured “halo” to indicate that the light is visible all-round. This may result in screen clutter in some ECDIS display modes and could potentially confuse the mariner.

**Encoders are advised that the attributes SECTR1 and SECTR2 must not be populated for lights that are visible all-round (omni-directional).**

*FAQ* (November 2012)

- Q 43* *If I encode an all-round light with attributes SECTR1 = 0 and SECTR2 = 360, will this symbolize as a “halo” in the ECDIS display?*
- A 43 Not in some ECDIS. Therefore this encoding must not be used for all-round lights. See ENC Encoding Bulletin No. 53.