



THIS CIRCULAR LETTER INCLUDES A REPORTING FORM

IHB File S3/8151/HSSC

CIRCULAR LETTER 34/2013
31 May 2013

**PROMULGATION OF TEMPORARY AND PRELIMINARY NOTICES
IN ENC ER UPDATES**

- References:
- A. Circular Letter 09/2011 dated 31 January - *Guidelines for encoding Temporary and Preliminary ENC Updates*
 - B. Publication S-57 Appendix B.1 Annex A - *Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC - Clause 2.6.2 - Guidelines for encoding Temporary and Preliminary ENC Updates*
 - C. Circular Letter 30/2011 dated 6 May - *Status of Temporary and Preliminary ENC Updates Production*
 - D. Circular Letter 15/2012 dated 6 February –*Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC), 3rd Meeting Monaco 8-10 November 2011*
 - E. Circular Letter 102/2012 dated 29 November - *Outcome of the Fourth Meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) and Associated IHO ECDIS Stakeholders' Forum*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The timely provision of consistent updates to nautical charts and publications in general and to Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) in particular is essential to the safety of navigation. This includes ensuring appropriate temporary and preliminary notices (T & P) are included as part of the updating service for ENC.
2. A survey of Member States was conducted in 2011 (see Reference A) to assess the status of production and publication of Temporary (T) and Preliminary (P) ENC updates, and also the status of the implementation of the *IHO Guidelines for encoding Temporary and Preliminary ENC Updates*.
3. The guidelines describe the best practices for applying temporary and preliminary updates for ENC and identify key principles for ensuring the appropriate encoding of these updates, through a set of pragmatic recommendations. Initially contained in publication S-65, they were transferred to S-57 Appendix B.1 Annex A - *Use of the Object Catalogue for ENCs*, when the latter document was issued as a stand-alone publication in 2012. The guidelines form clause 2.6.2 of this publication (see Reference B).
4. The survey revealed (see References C and D) that, of the 51 Member States that were issuing ENCs at that time, directly or through arrangements with other States:

- 44 Member States were publishing temporary (T) and preliminary (P) notices to mariners (NM) for paper charts, and of those, 32 Member States were also producing ENC (ER) equivalent updates.
- of the 12 Member States that were producing NM (T) and (P) for paper charts but did not yet produce equivalent ENC updates, nine expected to do so by the end of 2012.

5. The third Meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (Reference D) requested the IHB “to survey Member States again in 2013 regarding their progress in implementing the recently approved Guidelines for Encoding T&P ENC Updates and to communicate the results to MS.” (HSSC-3 Minutes, Annex E, Action HSSC3/20). The request was confirmed at the fourth HSSC Meeting (see Reference E, Annex A, Action HSSC4/01).

6. Member States producing ENCs, directly or through arrangements with other States, are therefore requested to report again the status of ENC updating procedures for T&P in their ENCs, using the Response Form provided at Annex A. The completed form should be returned to the IHB **not later than 1 August 2013**.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Gilles BESSERO
Director

Annex A: Response Form

RESPONSE FORM

Status of T&P ENC Updating Procedures

(to be returned to the IHB not later than 1st August 2013
E-mail: info@iho.int - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

Member State:

Contact: E-mail:

ENC produced: Directly Through arrangement with another State
Name of the State : _____

1. Do you produce Temporary and Preliminary (T&P) Notices to Mariners (NMs) for paper Charts?

Note: T&P NMs for paper charts are described in IHO publication S-4 Part B-600 “*Chart maintenance*” (clauses B-633 & B-634).

Yes	No

2. If you answer “Yes” to question 1, do you promulgate the equivalent of the T&P NMs for paper charts via ENC updates (via ER application profile)?

Yes	No

Comments:

3. If you answer “No” to question 2, please indicate when you plan to produce T&P updates for ENC via ER application profiles as recommended in clause 2.6.2 of S-57 Appendix B.1 Annex A?

Year

Comments:

4. Do you think that the *Guidelines for Encoding T&P ENC Updates* (Clause 2.6.2 of S-57 Appendix B.1 Annex A) provide sufficient guidance on how to encode T&P NMs via ENC updates?

Yes	Improvements could be made	No opinion
(please comment below)		

Comments on how the guidance in clause 2.6.2 of S-57 Appendix B.1 Annex A could be improved:

Signature:

Date: