



**THIS CIRCULAR LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE**

IHB File No. S3/0302

**CIRCULAR LETTER 69/2013**  
**29 November 2013**

**MANUAL ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA - 1982**  
Publication C-51, New Edition 5.0.0

Reference: IHO CL 28/2006 dated 7 March - *Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982 (IHO Publication S-51 – 4<sup>th</sup> Edition)*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Publication C-51 - *A Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982* provides guidance on the technical aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982 (UNCLOS). The purpose of C-51 is to ensure maximum international standardization of the technical aspects related to UNCLOS. C-51 has been developed through collaboration with the United Nations Division on Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS).
2. The maintenance of C-51 is the responsibility of the Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS), which is a co-sponsored group under the auspices of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG). The current 4<sup>th</sup> edition of C-51 is dated March 2006 (see reference) and is available in English and Spanish.
3. In accordance with its work plan, ABLOS established an Editorial Group to prepare a draft new edition 5.0.0 of C-51. The key elements of the work of the Editorial Group were as follows:
  - a. In reviewing the old text, the Editorial Group determined that Chapter 2 (Geodesy) was most in need of substantial revision in order to better reflect the current theory and practice in surveying and satellite-based positioning. Accordingly, Chapter 2 was re-written in its entirety.
  - b. Minor changes were recommended and implemented for Chapter 4 (Baselines) and Chapter 6 (Bilateral Boundaries). Modifications to Chapter 3 (Nautical Charts) and Chapter 5 (Outer Limits) have been identified but, because of work load considerations, their implementation will be deferred to a future edition.
  - c. In a significant departure from previous editions, selected illustrations throughout the Manual have been made into animations in order to better explain certain concepts and procedures. Where appropriate, figure captions contain links to the IHO website where the animations may be accessed (Home > Standards & Publications > Download > C-51 > Talos Animations).

4. The draft edition 5.0.0 of C-51 was reviewed and recommended by ABLOS at its last business meeting and, more recently, endorsed by the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. A copy of the draft edition 5.0.0 of C-51 (English version) is now available for inspection on the IHO website at Home > Standards & Publications > Download > Draft Publications Awaiting Approval by Member States > C-51

([http://www.iho.int/iho\\_pubs/IHO\\_Download.htm#draft](http://www.iho.int/iho_pubs/IHO_Download.htm#draft)).

5. In accordance with IHO Resolution 2/2007, as amended, and noting the recent endorsement by the HSSC, Member States are requested to consider the adoption of the draft edition 5.0.0 of C-51, and to provide their reply by returning the Voting Form, provided in Annex A, **no later than 31 January 2014**.

6. The preparation of the French and Spanish versions of the new edition, if adopted, will be considered in due course.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,



Gilles BESSERO  
Director

Annex A: Voting Form - Adoption of Edition 5.0.0 of C-51

**ADOPTION OF EDITION 5.0.0 OF C-51**

**VOTING FORM**

(to be returned to the IHB **no later than 31 January 2014**)

E-mail: info@iho.int - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

**Member  
State:**

**Contact:**

**E-mail:**

Do you approve the adoption of Edition 5.0.0 of C-51 - *Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982*?

YES

NO

Comments (if required)