



IHB File AB-4/S-5

CIRCULAR LETTER 11/2014

03 February 2014

IHO PUBLICATIONS S-5 Ed. 11.1.0 & S-8 Ed. 3.1.0
"Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors" and "Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers"

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM MEMBER STATES

References:

- A. IHO Publication S-5 - *Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors*
- B. IHO Publication S-8 - *Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers*
- C. IHO Resolution 2/2007 - *Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications*
- D. Circular Letter 72/2013 dated 10 December - *Capacity Building and Standards of Competence Stakeholders' Seminars*
- E. Circular Letter 14/2013 dated 15 February – *IBSC – Revision of the Standards*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. In accordance with its Terms of Reference and Work Programme, the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) is in the process of updating IHO Publications S-5 (Reference A) and S-8 (Reference B). Taking into account IHO Resolution 2/2007 as amended (Reference C), the 5th meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC-5) endorsed the revisions in principle and approved the IBSC Work Programme 2013-2014.

2. The draft revisions 11.1.0 of S-5 and 3.1.0 of S-8 are available for inspection on the IHO website at www.iho.int > Standards & Publications > Click here to download IHO Publications > Draft Publications for Discussion > S-5 and S-8 (http://www.iho.int/iho_pubs/draft_pubs/S-5_S-8/S-5_S-8.html). Complementary copies, with changes highlighted in blue text or via strike-through text, are also available on the same page of the website.

3. Revisions in the main parts of S-5 and S-8, and in the Appendix 2 of S-5, comprise clarifications and improvements to the following:

- Procedure for Programme recognition
- Onsite review process
- Description of field work and practical exercises
- Acknowledgement of e-learning as a delivery method
- Time frames:
 - Time frame over which a programme is delivered
 - Minimum duration of a programme
 - Time frame for programme recognition
- Correction of references, typographical errors and some duplication
- Updating of the models of certificates and the annual assessment template

4. In accordance with Reference C, any revision to an IHO standard requires a consultation process before seeking Member States' approval for the revision to enter into force. Member States and Stakeholders are therefore invited to submit any comments on the proposed revisions to S-5 and S-8. Any feedback received will be presented and discussed at the Standards of Competence Stakeholders' Seminar which will take place at the IHB in Monaco on 7 March 2014 (see Reference D). Submissions should therefore be sent to the IHB (info@iho.int) **no later than 1 March 2014 using the response form provided in Annex A**. The short time being made available to provide feedback is regretted, but is required so as to allow the feedback to be considered at the seminar. Member States and Stakeholders may attend the seminar to elaborate on their inputs and comments on the proposed revisions of S-5 and S-8 if they wish.

5. The comments and suggestions on the IBSC White Paper (which was provided in Reference E) entitled "*Towards New Standards of Competence for Hydrographers and Nautical Cartographers*" will also be considered at the Standards of Competence Stakeholders' Seminar. The proposals set out in the IBSC White Paper will be a baseline for the next editions of both standards (S-5 and S-8) which will follow revisions 11.1.0 and 3.1.0 in the next years.

6. The outcome of the discussions on the proposed revisions of S-5 and S-8 at the Standards of Competence Stakeholders' Seminar together with any late submissions will then be reviewed during the 37th meeting of the IBSC (11-17 April 2014, Tokyo, Japan). Finalised draft revisions of the publications will be submitted to the 6th meeting of the IRCC (19-20 May 2014, Paris, France) for endorsement, in accordance with item 3.2 of Reference C. The Directing Committee will then seek Member States' approval by Circular Letter.

7. The effective adoption date for the revised standards is intended to be 15 September 2014. This implementation date will allow institutions seeking recognition or re-recognition in the 2015 review cycle to submit their programmes to the IBSC in accordance with the revised standards.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,



Mustafa IPTES

Director

Annex: Response Form

Distribution:

- IHO Member States
- Partner Organizations
- Recognized Non-Governmental International Organizations (NGIOs)
- Institutions currently accredited by the IBSC
- Industry Stakeholders/Expert Contributors

REVISION OF THE IHO PUBLICATIONS S-5 AND S-8
Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers

Response Form

(to be returned to the IHB by 01 March 2014)

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

Note: The boxes will expand as you type your entries.

**Entity (Member State or
Stakeholder):**
Point of Contact:
E-mail:

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Please provide comments on the draft IHO Publication S-5 Ed. 11.1.0 - *Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors* in the box below (see http://www.iho.int/iho_pubs/draft_pubs/S-5_S-8/S-5_S-8.html):

**Comments
on S-5:**

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Please provide comments on the draft IHO Publication S-8 Ed. 3.1.0 - *Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers* in the box below (see http://www.iho.int/iho_pubs/draft_pubs/S-5_S-8/S-5_S-8.html):

**Comments
on S-8 :**

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