



IHB File AB-4/S-5, S-8

CIRCULAR LETTER 74/2014  
26 November 2014

**ADOPTION OF REVISED EDITIONS OF THE IHO PUBLICATIONS:**

**S-5 Ed. 11.1.0 - *Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors***

**S-8 Ed. 3.1.0 - *Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers***

Reference: IHO Circular Letter 67/2014 dated 19 September - *Approval of New Editions of IHO Publications S-5 Ed. 11.1.0 - Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and S-8 Ed. 3.1.0 - Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Circular Letter in reference proposed the adoption of revised editions of IHO Publications S-5 - *Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors* (edition 11.1.0) and S-8 - *Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers* (edition 3.1.0). The Directing Committee would like to thank the following 59 Member States that replied: Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Rep. of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States of America.
2. Edition 11.1.0 of S-5 received the support of 55 Member States and Edition 3.1.0 of S-8 received the support of 56 Member States, with eleven Member States providing comments. All comments and the outcome of their review by the Chair of the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) are provided in the Annex to this letter.
3. There are currently 82 Member States of the IHO with three States suspended. Therefore in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article VI of the Convention on the IHO, the majority required for adoption of revisions to existing publications is 40. Consequently, Edition 11.1.0 of S-5 *Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors* and Edition 3.1.0 of S-8 *Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers* have been adopted and will enter in force on 1 December 2014. Both publications will be posted on the IHO website.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mustafa IPTES', is written over a light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mustafa IPTES

Director

**MEMBER STATES' RESPONSES to IHO CL 67/2014 – Adoption of Revised Editions of the IHO Publications: S-5, Ed.11.1.0 and S-8, Ed. 3.1.0, and comments from the IBSC Chair**

---

**CHILE [Approves]**

Both S-5 and S-8 indicate that “The submission deadline will normally be 31 December of the year prior to the next meeting.” If the new standards enter in force on 01 December 2014 as expected, we are of the opinion that 30 days is too short a time to adapt the relevant changes to the submissions in preparation in order to comply with the established deadline. The IBSC shall apply flexibility or allow more time to produce the necessary adjustments.

*Comment from IBSC Chair: As stated in paragraph 4 of the CL, the current revision has not changed the Syllabus that is the core of the Standards. It only provides better guidance for submitting organizations. Furthermore, the draft publications were considered in accordance with the consultation process set out in IHO Resolution 2/2007 as amended and were initially presented at IRCC6 (June 2014).*

**CROATIA [Approves]**

Croatia is aware of the importance of competence standards in the area of any human activity. In the field of hydrography and cartography which is safety related issues it is much more important. Therefore Croatia very much welcomes any action from IHB and Member States which leads to improvement of standards of competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers. In that sense Croatia wishes to thank all contributors for the current improvement of the IHO Publications S-5 and S-8.

*Comment from IBSC Chair: Thanks for expression of support.*

**DENMARK [Does not approve S-5, Approves S-8]**

The proposed minimum duration, for the Cat A program, of one year seems somewhat excessive, considering that all Danish applicants have a background as master mariners and naval officers, prior to their hydrographic education and training.

It should be considered to describe the option of a combined program, where students that complete the Cat B program and sometime after attend the Cat A program, could benefit from the education and training in order to transfer merit and complete the Cat A program in a shorter time. This will provide a more flexible career planning for surveyor candidates joining national hydrographic services.

*Comment from IBSC Chair: this subject was discussed as an outcome of IHO CL 11/2014 during the past IBSC Stakeholders' Seminar ((Monaco, 7 March 2014) and reported to IRCC6 (doc. IRCC6-09B refers).*

**INDIA [Does not approve]**

There is a need to relook at the proposed duration of one year for the Cat. ‘A’ programme vis-à-vis the procedure followed by most navies to have the Cat. ‘B’ programme followed by 2-3 years of field experience as a pre-requisite for Cat. ‘A’ course. In such cases it is recommended that the minimum duration of Cat. ‘A’ programme should be reduced pro rata to around 32 weeks considering the rationale given below.

1 year	52 weeks		52 weeks
Min. Basic H	<u>16 weeks</u>	Max. Basic H	<u>24 weeks</u>
	36 weeks		28 weeks

The average of 28 and 36 works out to 32 weeks. It is therefore recommended that the proposed minimum duration of the Cat. A programme for both the Hydrographic and Cartographic Training in the S-5 and S-8 documents should be suitably revised.

The Indian Naval Hydrographic Department is in agreement to most of the other issues discussed and proposed in the revised S-5 and S-8 documents and also takes this opportunity to compliment the IBSC Team involved. We agree to the adoption with the above change.

*Comment from IBSC Chair: the duration of the programmes was discussed during the IBSC Stakeholders' Seminar (Monaco, 7 March 2014) following the consultation done through IHO CL 11/2014, during IBSC37 (Tokyo, Japan, 11-17 April 2014) and reported to IRCC6 (doc. IRCC6-09B refers).*

#### **JAPAN [Does not approve]**

The following points in the new editions should be considered.

- 1) The due date to submit annual report is to be 31 December in Appendix IV. But the due date for submission should be the end of the next January to report from January to December.
- 2) In 3.3.2 Internal Review Document, a sentence “Committee will contact the hosting institution at least four months prior to on-site review visit.” should be added after the sentence “The review team will comprise two or three reviewers and the duration of the on-site review is typically two to three days.”, considering a preparation of the hosting institute which will receive the on-site review.

We will be able to accept the new editions if our opinion will be incorporated.

In future revision, we request to consider new scheme for Category A accredited course aimed for the persons who have already completed Category B accredited course. We believe such scheme is needed besides the present Category A accredited course which the items for Category B are included.

*Comment from IBSC Chair: the due date to submit the annual report refers to the end of the one-year cycle and the institution will not be penalized if it delivers the report during the month of January. However, the IBSC Secretary needs to compile all the reports in order to allow the revision by the IBSC Members during the following meeting that usually happens early in the year. Regarding the on-site review, the IBSC review team will work with the institution in order to find the appropriate dates for the visit. This visit is by no means intended to unexpected. For the third item, the new scheme for Category A, the IBSC will be very happy to consider proposals from Member States during the consultation process established by IHO Resolution 2/2007 or in a direct proposal to the IBSC.*

#### **MEXICO [Approves]**

The Mexican State approves the adoption of these editions of S-5 and S-8 because they adhere to the real requirements for capacity in the fields of Hydrography and Cartography.

*Comment from IBSC Chair: Thanks for expression of support.*

#### **NETHERLANDS [Does not approve]**

For both of the standards of Competence, the principle applies that the course contents must be leading and duration of the course follows suit. In this case the content of the syllabus has not been changed while the duration has increased; flipping the principle. Present situation is satisfactory. The proposed situation is less flexible, prescriptive and less cost effective. In general, the document is against the grain of modern education, like modular and blended / distant learning and is not taking into account any earlier acquired competences of the students.

*Comment from IBSC Chair: The duration of the programmes has not increased and it was not explicit in previous edition. The Board decided to make the minimum duration explicit and compatible with the syllabi. This revision is indeed meant to include modular and blended/distant learning that were not present before, making it more flexible and aligned to modern education.*

## **PERU [Approves]**

This Technical Direction recommends the approval so the changes and modifications will be included in both publications S-5 Edition 11.1.0 and S-8 Edition 3.1.0.

*Comment from IBSC Chair: Thanks for expression of support.*

## **PORTUGAL [Approves]**

Portugal fully supports the adoption of Edition 11.1.0 of S-5 – Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Edition 3.1.0 of S-8 – Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers. We also welcome the efforts of the International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) for the review and revision of these IHO publications, which ultimately leads to improvement of the organization of the education programs for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers.

*Comment from IBSC Chair: Thanks for expression of support.*

## **SPAIN [Approves]**

Given the range of equipment, software and multidisciplinary procedures required under the programme in force, the minimum duration of a Category B Programme must be around thirty-six (36) weeks (without requested exemptions).

In case exemptions were sought, this period could be reduced accordingly but should not be of less than twenty-four (24) weeks.

Shorter programmes could be considered, adapting and customizing them to less demanding timely needs of end-users requiring only knowledge in specific areas of shorter duration.

*Comment from IBSC Chair: Thanks for the suggestion to increase the minimum duration of the Category B Programmes and this may be necessary for more robust programmes. However, the Standards define the minimum requirements for an education programme to be recognized as such.*

## **UK [Approves]**

UK approves the adoption of Edition 11.1.0 of S-5, although we consider it inappropriate to set a minimum course length without the associated syllabus to justify it and even then, there should be exemptions to recognise E-learning possibilities and through-career development.

UK approves the adoption of Edition 3.1.0 of S-8. The minimum course length was accommodated within the recent reaccreditation of the UKHO Marine Cartography and Data Assessment. It should be acknowledged that E-learning possibilities, advances in the latest software and technology are designed to help processes move quicker. Therefore the length of time away from the work place to attend course should reflect this change in working practice.

*Comment from IBSC Chair: Regarding the S-5 the IBSC considers that the delivery of the minimum Standards cannot be achieved for programmes shorter than the minimum duration established for the Category A and B and this revision of the Publication already considers the possible use of E-learning and blended learning. However, the certificates recognizing the completion of Category A or Category B courses are awarded to those that complete an educational programme. Career development is dealt with in the Scheme for Individual Recognition. The possibility of E-learning and blended learning is already considered for the S-8. However, the speed of the processes does not necessarily mean that the education and training should be changed. The IBSC considers all these components when establishing the minimum duration of the programmes.*