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S3/8162

**CIRCULAR LETTER 14/2015**  
**18 February 2015**

**ADOPTION OF REVISED EDITION 1.2.0 OF IHO PUBLICATION S-63**  
**IHO DATA PROTECTION SCHEME**

Reference: IHO Circular Letter 75/2014 dated 26 November - *Approval of the Draft Revised Edition 1.2.0 of IHO Publication S-63 IHO Data Protection Scheme.*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Circular Letter in Reference proposed the adoption of a revised Edition 1.2.0 of IHO Publication S-63 - *IHO Data Protection Scheme*. The Directing Committee would like to thank the following 41 Member States that replied to the Circular Letter: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Latvia, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine, USA.

2. All Member States supported the adoption of the revised edition of S-63. Five Member States offered comments. Their comments and the outcome of their review by the Chair of the Data Protection Scheme Working Group (DPSWG) 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 the revised edition is 40. As a result, Edition 1.2.0 of IHO Publication S-63 has been adopted and will be posted on the IHO website.

4. As indicated in the reference, compliance with the new Annex C introduced in the revised edition will apply only to those ECDIS systems that will be type-approved in accordance with the new edition of IEC 61174 - *Electronic chart display and information system (ECDIS) – Operational and performance requirements, methods of testing and required test results*, which is due to be published in September 2015. There will be no retrospective impact on existing ECDIS systems.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gilles Bessero'.

Gilles BESSERO  
Director

Copy to: Chair, DPSWG

Annex A: Member States' responses to CL 75/2014 and comments from the Chair of the DPSWG.

**MEMBER STATES' RESPONSES TO CL 75/2014 AND  
COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF  
THE DATA PROTECTION SCHEME WORKING GROUP (DPSWG)**

**ADOPTION OF EDITION 1.2.0 OF IHO PUBLICATION S-63:  
IHO DATA PROTECTION SCHEME**

**AUSTRALIA**

This is a necessary and welcome component of providing functionality considered most important by port state control organizations and responsible ECDIS users.

*Comment noted.*

**BANGLADESH**

1. The draft revised edition 1.2.0 of the IHO Publication S-63 is a very important publication for ENC data handling, security and upkeep.

2. Bangladesh Navy is at the stage of preparing ENC. Thus, S-63 would be a wonderful reference for ENC handling.

*Comment noted.*

**CROATIA**

Generally, Croatia welcomes and approves any proposal that leads to the introduction of new functionalities for ECDIS, in this case the requirement for an "ENC Update Status Report". Therefore, Croatia would like to thank the members of the IHO Data Protection Scheme Working Group and all other contributors in the development of the revised edition 1.2.0 of the S-63 IHO publication.

*Comment noted.*

**FRANCE**

When the status of ENC cells as described in Annex C, para. 3.5, (page 101) is "UNKNOWN" the ECDIS user would not know if an action is necessary or not and, if so, what action is required. The format of the report (para 3.7) does not allow to detail this and to explain the action to conduct due to a lack of space. It is recommended to encourage ECDIS manufacturers to anticipate in their user manuals the course of action to be taken.

*Comment accepted. A proposal to produce an explanatory document, providing guidance on implementing the new ENC status report, is to be submitted to the next DPSWG meeting. ECDIS manufacturers will be encouraged to use the document to include guidance in their user manuals.*

**PORTUGAL**

We suggest that the information about "Expiry Date" of the Permits should be added to data server Content Tables, because it is important information for the navigator.

*Comment noted for further consideration at the next DPSWG meeting, recalling that the inclusion of the "Expiry Date" in the report is proposed as an option in the revised edition.*