



THIS CIRCULAR LETTER INVITES YOU TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

IHB File No. AB-4/S-5

CIRCULAR LETTER 31/2015
10 April 2015

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW IHO PUBLICATIONS:

- S-5A - Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors Category A**
S-5B - Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors Category B

- References:
- A. IHC-XVIII - Decision No. 18 - *IHO Work Programme 2013-2017*;
 - B. IHO Circular Letter 14/2013 dated 15 February - *International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) – Revision of the Standards*
 - C. IHO Circular Letter 64/2013 dated 11 November - *Outcome of the 5th meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC5)*
 - D. IHO Circular Letter 57/2014 dated 12 August - *Outcome of the 6th meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC6)*
 - E. IHO Circular Letter 72/2013 dated 10 December - *Capacity Building and Standards of Competence Stakeholders' Seminars*
 - F. IHO Resolution 2/2007 as amended - *Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference approved Task 3.3.9 in the 2013-2017 IHO Work Programme (Reference A):

Task	Title	Activities/Deliverables	Comments
3.3.9	Maintain IBSC Publications (C-6, C-47, S-5, S-8)	IBSC to develop a new Standards framework to separate competency requirements for Cat. A and Cat. B hydrographers and nautical cartographers by developing two discrete parts in the standards S-5 and S-8 and update their content to comply with the scientific and technological developments in the fields of Hydrography and Nautical Cartography	2013-2017 Support to IBSC on the complete development of new set of Standards of Competence: 60 k€ for 5 years

2. In accordance with this task, the development of the Standards framework was announced in Reference B. The IBSC has made considerable progress in drafting the new Standards for Hydrographic Surveyors, which will be designated as Publications S-5A and S-5B.

3. In addition, another major initiative is the development of a separate document - "*Guidelines for the Implementation of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors*". This is intended to assist educational and training organizations in the preparation of submissions to the IBSC for its consideration in relation to the S-5A and S-5B Standards.

4. The IBSC has prepared the first draft edition of S-5B - *Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors Category B* following a process of consultation with IRCC (References C and D) and with Stakeholders (Reference E). This process of consultation follows the procedures required under Reference F. **The draft edition of S-5B and draft Guidelines are now available on the IHO website at:**

www.iho.int → Standards & Publications → Download → Draft Publications for discussion

5. Member States are invited to comment on the first draft edition of S-5B. Hydrographic educational and training organizations are also invited to provide their comments. **The deadline for responses is 18 May 2015.**

6. The timetable for the finalization of the new Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors Category A (S-5A) and Category B (S-5B) is as follows:

Time	Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors – S-5B
18 May 2015	Deadline for responses to this Circular Letter
22 May 2015	Analysis of the responses to this Circular Letter and submission of S-5B to IRCC7 for endorsement
1 June 2015	IRCC7 consideration
15 June 2015	Circular Letter to seek Member States' endorsement of S-5B (subject to IRCC7 endorsement)
15 August 2015	Deadline for votes from Member States (subject to IRCC7 endorsement)
1 January 2016	S-5B in force (subject to Member States approval)

Time	Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors – S-5A
1 April 2016	First draft of S-5A ready for circulation seeking comments and feedback by Circular Letter
15 May 2016	Deadline for responses to the previous Circular Letter
20 May 2016	Analysis of the responses to the Circular Letter on S-5A and submission to IRCC8 for endorsement
May/June 2016	IRCC8 consideration
15 June 2016	Circular Letter to seek Member States' endorsement of S-5A (subject to IRCC8 endorsement)
15 August 2016	Deadline for votes from Member States (subject to IRCC8 endorsement)
1 January 2017	S-5A in force (subject to Member States' approval)
	S-5 (Edition 11.1.0) withdrawn

7. As a consequence of the timetable shown above in paragraph 6, institutions seeking recognition of their hydrographic programmes by the IBSC in 2017 (at IBSC40 meeting) will be expected to submit their programmes based on the new Standards S-5A and S-5B.

8. The development of the matching *Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers* (S-8A and S-8B) will be undertaken according to the work programme submitted to IRCC5 (Reference C).

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Mustafa IPTES
Director

Distribution:

- IHO Member States
- Hydrographic Training and Education Institutions recognised by the IBSC