



THIS CIRCULAR LETTER INVITES YOU TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

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**DRAFT NEW EDITION 1.0.0 OF THE IHO PUBLICATION S-5A –
STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR CATEGORY “A” HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS**

- References:
- A. IHO Circular Letter 31/2015 dated 10 April - *Development of the New IHO Publications: S-5A - Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors, Category A and S-5B - Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors, Category B*
 - B. IHO Circular Letter 69/2015 dated 17 September - *Outcome of the 7th meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC7)*
 - C. IHO Circular Letter 87/2015 (Rev.1) dated 15 December - *Approval of IHO Work Programme & Budget for 2016*
 - D. IHO Circular Letter 90/2015 dated 17 December - *Adoption of the New Publication S-5B Edition 1.0.0 Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors, Category B*
 - E. IHO Resolution 2/2007 as amended - *Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) prepared the draft new edition of S-5A - *Standards of Competence for Category “A” Hydrographic Surveyors*, as announced in Reference A. This work was endorsed by the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) at its seventh meeting in Mexico City, in June 2015 (Reference B) and approved by the IHO Member States in the 2016 IHO Work Programme (Reference C).
2. This is a continuation of the work that resulted in the adoption of Edition 1.0.0 of the IHO Publication S-5B that entered into force on 1 January 2016 (Reference D). This first edition of S-5B cancels and replaces the content of the IHO Publication S-5 Edition 11.1.0 related to the Standards of Competence for Category “B” Hydrographic Surveyors. Similarly, the new edition of S-5A will eventually cancel and replace IHO Publication S-5 Edition 11.1.0 related to the Standards of Competence for Category “A” Hydrographic Surveyors, subject to the approval of the Member States.
3. As indicated in Reference A, this draft edition of S-5A should be considered together with the companion document - *Guidelines for the Implementation of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors*, as was the case for the adoption of S-5B (Reference A). This is intended to assist educational and training organizations in the preparation of submissions to the IBSC in relation to both the S-5A and S-5B Standards.
4. In order to comply with the process of consultation required under Reference E, the draft edition of S-5A is now available for comment on the IHO website at:

5. Member States are invited to comment on the first draft edition of S-5A. Hydrographic educational and training organizations are also invited to provide their comments. **The deadline for responses is 01 April 2016.** The outcome of this consultation process will be reported to IRCC8, which will be held in May in the UAE, seeking the endorsement of the Committee prior to submitting the publication to IHO Member States for adoption.

6. Subject to the approval of the Member States, institutions seeking recognition of their hydrographic programmes by the IBSC in 2017 (at the IBSC40 meeting) will be expected to submit their programmes based on the new Standards S-5A and S-5B.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Mustafa IPTES
Director

Distribution:

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