



THIS CIRCULAR LETTER INVITES YOU TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

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10 October 2016

**CALL FOR COMMENTS ON DRAFT NEW EDITION 1.0.0 OF IHO PUBLICATION S-8B –
STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR CATEGORY "B" NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHERS**

References:

- A. IHC-XVIII - Decision No. 18 - *IHO Work Programme 2013-2017*
- B. 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*
- C. IHO Circular Letter 50/2016 dated 28 September - *Adoption of Edition 1.0.0 of IHO Publication S-5A - Standards of Competence for Category "A" Hydrographic Surveyors ;*
- D. IHO Circular Letter 42/2016 dated 5 September - *Outcome of the 8th meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC8)*
- E. IHO Resolution 2/2007 as amended - *Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Task 3.3.9 of the 2013-2017 IHO Work Programme authorised the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) to develop separate competency requirements for Category "A" and Category "B" Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (see Reference A). As announced in References B and C, the IHO adopted revised versions of the Standards of Competence for Category "B" and Category "A" Hydrographic Surveyors.
2. In accordance with the IBSC work programme that was endorsed by the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) at its eighth meeting in Abu Dhabi, in May 2016 (see Reference D), the IBSC is now developing a similar set of separate Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers. In accordance with Reference E, the Chair of the IBSC has requested the Directing Committee to circulate a draft new edition 1.0.0 of S-8B - *Standards of Competence for Category "B" Nautical Cartographers* seeking comments from Member States and stakeholders.
3. Any initial feedback provided by Member States and stakeholders will be considered by the IBSC during an extraordinary meeting that will be held in Singapore from 21 to 25 November 2016. During the meeting the IBSC will also complete the development of the draft new edition 1.0.0 of S-8A - *Standards of Competence for Category "A" Nautical Cartographers* that will be subsequently submitted to Member States and stakeholders, seeking comments and feedback, in accordance with Reference E. Both revised draft editions 1.0.0 of S-8B and S-8A will then be considered by the IBSC40

(Wellington, New Zealand, 20-31 March 2017) and submitted to Member States for approval, subject to the endorsement by the IRCC at its 9th meeting (Paramaribo, Suriname, 12-14 June 2017).

4. Similar to S-5A and S-5B (References B and C), the new editions of S-8A and S-8B will be supplemented by the companion document - *Guidelines for the Implementation of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers*. This document is intended to assist educational and training organizations in the preparation of submissions to the IBSC in relation to the relevant Standards of Competence. The document will be developed by the IBSC from the current *Guidelines for the Implementation of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors* in order to refer to the four Standards.

5. In accordance with the process of consultation required under Reference E, the draft edition of S-8B is now available (*in English only*) on the IHO website at:

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

6. Member States are invited to review the draft and to provide their comments on the first draft edition 1.0.0 of S-8B as soon as possible. Training and Education Institutions recognised by the IBSC are also invited to provide their comments. **The deadline for comments is 31 December 2016, however, the Board would appreciate comments as soon as possible, and ideally prior to its meeting in Singapore on 20 November.** Comments received after 20 November will be considered by the IBSC during the continuation of the drafting process and during its next meeting in New Zealand in March 2017.

7. Subject to the subsequent approval of a new edition of S8-A and S8-B by the Member States in 2017, institutions seeking recognition of their nautical cartography programmes by the IBSC in 2018 (at the IBSC41 meeting) will be expected to submit their programmes based on the new Standards S-8A and S-8B.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,



Mustafa IPTES

Director

Distribution:

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