



Dossier du BHI No. S3/8151/CHRIS

LETTRE CIRCULAIRE 92/2008
14 novembre 2008

GRUPE DE TRAVAIL DU CHRIS SUR LA MISE A JOUR DES ENC (EUWG)

Référence : Compte rendu de la 20^e réunion du CHRIS (CHRIS/20) – Point d'action 20/17

Madame la Directrice, Monsieur le Directeur,

1. Lors de la 20^e réunion du Comité sur les besoins hydrographiques pour les systèmes d'information (CHRIS) qui s'est tenue au Brésil, en novembre 2008, la France a présenté le document CHRIS20-06.1C qui attirait l'attention sur les incohérences dans la diffusion et la distribution des avis aux navigateurs temporaires (T) et préliminaires (P) destinés à être utilisés dans l'ECDIS. La France a établi que :

- Approximativement la moitié de tous les Etats producteurs d'ENC diffusent l'équivalent des avis T et/ou P *via* les mises à jour des ENC, tandis que l'autre moitié invite les navigateurs à se référer aux revues contenant les avis aux navigateurs ou aux sites web;
- La traduction des avis T et P pour les cartes papier en mises à jour ENC est parfois incohérente ou incorrecte;
- Les avis T et P pour les cartes papier et pour les ENC ne sont pas toujours publiés en même temps ; et
- Les avis T et P destinés aux ENC ne sont pas tous en anglais.

2. Un exemplaire du document CHRIS (CHRIS20-06.1C) (*en anglais uniquement*) est inclus en annexe A, aux fins de référence.

3. Le Comité a reconnu que cette situation n'est pas sans conséquences pour la sécurité de la navigation et pour la cohérence des services ENC, et qu'elle nécessite donc, de toute urgence, d'être examinée afin de trouver une solution. Le comité a donc décidé de créer un groupe de travail temporaire (le groupe de travail sur la mise à jour des ENC) chargé de préparer des propositions et de rendre compte de ses conclusions et de ses recommandations à la réunion inaugurale du Comité des services et des normes hydrographiques (HSSC), en 2009.

4. Le comité a convenu que le groupe de travail sur la mise à jour des ENC (EUWG) sera présidé par la France, avec le RU à la vice-présidence. Le mandat de l'EUWG (*en anglais uniquement*) est contenu dans l'annexe B à cette LC.

5. Les Etats membres qui souhaitent participer à l'EUWG doivent prendre contact avec le président de l'EUWG, l'Ing en chef Jean-Luc Deniel (jean-luc.deniel@shom.fr).

Veillez agréer, Madame la Directrice, Monsieur le Directeur, l'assurance de ma haute considération,

Pour le Comité de direction

Capitaine de vaisseau Robert WARD
Directeur

Annexe A : Document CHRIS20-06.1C rev.1

Annexe B : mandat de l'EUWG

20th CHRIS MEETING
Niterói, RJ, Brazil, 3-7 November 2008

Paper for Consideration by CHRIS

Temporary (T) and Preliminary (P) Notices to be used with ENCs

Submitted by:	France
Executive Summary:	<p>The information contained in T and P notices to mariner must be used with ENCs. Inconsistency in the use and distribution of these notices by HO's has been highlighted by different committees or working groups and users. Many ships are now using paperless navigation, and the lack of use of T and P notices can be safety critical.</p> <p>A harmonisation of the solutions and practices is required.</p>
Related Documents:	CHRIS20-06.3A
Related Projects:	/

Introduction / Background

1. Usually, T and P notices are promulgated via HO's Notices to Mariners booklets which are available as paper and most often also on HO websites. On receipt, the information contained in T and P notices should be updated with a pencil on paper charts.
2. The information contained in these notices must be used in conjunction with ENCs, in whatever format it may be (ENC update, paper NtM, etc...). However, inconsistency in the use and distribution of T and P notices to mariners by HO's has been highlighted by different committees or working groups (RENC/JTEWG, TSMAD, WEND,) and users.

Analysis/Discussion

3. Among the raised issues and lack of harmonisation are the following:
 - about half of the HO's promulgate the equivalent of T and/or P notices via ENC updates, and the other half considers that mariners should refer to Notices to Mariners booklets or websites. That means that today, theoretically, ENC users must almost use as much different distribution channel as there is ENC producers.
 - Translation of T and P notices into ENC updates has proven to be sometimes difficult and inappropriate. It may also introduce inappropriate additional time delay for the distribution of this type of information. In addition, the production cost should be taken into account.

- Unavailability of the information in English language globally.

4. Consequently, at this time, it is very difficult for ENC users to comprehend the T and P notices network and get rapid and seamless information from one region to the other. In some cases, it can also become critical for safety of navigation.

5. A rapid and seamless network for navigational notices already exists on SafetyNET and on NAVTEX. May be, it could be extended to T and P notices (to see with CPRNW).

6. As recorded by CSPCWG (3rd meeting – November 2006), there is also a need for more precise guidance for the application of T and P notices to paper charts and the matter should be considered in relation to ENC.

Conclusion

7. The issue has been raised some years ago, and some committees or working groups are looking for solutions. Actions need to be coordinated and followed to enhance safety of navigation.

Action Required of CHRIS

8. The CHRIS is invited to confirm the need and the content of a new CHRIS action in order to:

- Follow the progress of harmonisation of the use, elaboration and distribution of T&P notices in general,
- In the short term, particularly follow the harmonisation and clarify the use of T&P to be used in conjunction with ENCs;
- Coordinate work between different committees and working groups (RENC/JTEWG, TSMAD, CSPCWG, CPRNW, etc).

Additional comments by IHB:

1. The lack of a consistent and efficient delivery mechanism for Temporary and Preliminary notices affecting ENC's is becoming an increasing cause for concern raised at ECDIS Stakeholders' Forums and in other user-based discussions (see CHRIS20-05.1B).
2. Guidance on the updating of ENC's is contained in S-52 Appendix 1. This was drafted by an IHO Updating WG between 1994-96 and approved in December 1996. These dates pre-date the distribution and use of ENC's and ECDIS and provide only general guidance based on anticipated rather than actual requirements. S-52 Appendix 1 has never been revised.
3. More generally, the whole of S-52 requires revision in order to account for the revised ECDIS Performance Standards adopted by IMO in 2006. This has been recommended by the CSMWG (See CHRIS20-06.3A).
4. S-57 and the S-57 ENC Product Specification provide mechanisms to encapsulate T&P notices through the use of the data attributes DATSTA (date start) and DATEND (date end); however, most HO's have not employed this facility, preferring either to use TXT files or to rely on the notices to mariners primarily intended for updating paper charts. In some cases the T&Ps are not in the mandatory ENC language of English.
5. The IMO Performance Standard for ECDIS does not specifically address T&P notices. As a consequence, IEC 61174 - *Test Specifications for ECDIS* do not call for any testing of this function. As a result, few ECDIS manufacturers have included a comprehensive function to read or process information attributed with DATSTA and DATEND.
6. Noting the history of this matter and the present situation, further guidance appears to be required as a matter of priority in order to ensure that mariners can obtain and incorporate T&P notices in ECDIS consistently, safely and efficiently. To achieve this, the CHRIS may wish to consider reactivating an Updating WG to.
 - a. develop and propose a pragmatic approach to overcome any current shortcomings in the updating mechanisms for T&P notices,
 - b. review and revise S-52 Appendix 1, as part of the general revision of S-52,
 - c. report to the HSSC in 2009.

ENC Updating Working Group (EUWG)

Terms of Reference

1. Objective

To develop contemporary guidance on standardized processes for the delivery and implementation of updates to ENCs.

2. Authority

The ENC Updating Working Group (EUWG) is a subsidiary of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) and its work is subject to HSSC approval.

3. Procedures

a. The EUWG shall:

- i. develop and propose a pragmatic approach to overcome any current shortcomings in the updating mechanisms for T&P notices in ENCs,
- ii. review and revise the updating mechanisms as contained in S-52 Appendix 1,
- iii. report to the HSSC in 2009 with recommendations as appropriate.

b. The EUWG shall take into account the CHRIS submission from France concerning Temporary and Preliminary Notices to Mariners used with ENCs (CHRIS20-06.1C).

c. The WG should work by correspondence unless a meeting is considered necessary to complete the assigned tasks.

d. The WG should liaise with the RENC Joint Technical Experts Working Group (JTEWG) and CSPCWG.

4. Composition and Chairmanship

a. The WG shall comprise representatives of IHO Member States (MS), the RENC JTEWG, Expert Contributors and Accredited NGIO Observers, all of whom have expressed their willingness to participate.

b. Member States, RENC JTEWG, Expert Contributors and Accredited NGIO Observers may indicate their willingness to participate at any time. A membership list shall be maintained.

c. Expert Contributor membership is open to entities and organisations that can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the WG.

d. The Chair of the WG shall be a representative from France. The vice-Chair shall be a representative from UK.

- e. Decisions should generally be made by consensus. If votes are required on issues or to endorse proposals presented to the WG, only MS may cast a vote. Votes shall be on the basis of one vote per MS represented. In the event that votes are required between meetings or in the absence of meetings, including for elections of a Chair or Vice-Chair, this shall be achieved through a postal ballot of those MS on the current membership list.
- f. If a secretary is required it should be a member of the WG
- g. If the Chair is unable to carry out the duties of the office, a Vice-Chair shall act as the Chair with the same powers and duties.
- h. Expert Contributors shall seek approval of membership from the Chair.
- i. Expert Contributor membership may be withdrawn in the event that a majority of the MS represented in the WG agree that an Expert Contributor's continued participation is irrelevant or unconstructive to the work of the WG.
- j. All members shall inform the Chair in advance of their intention to attend any meetings of the WG.
- k. In the event that a large number of Expert Contributor members seek to attend a meeting, the Chair may restrict attendance by inviting Expert Contributors to act through one or more collective representatives.