

Paper for Consideration by ENCWG2

ECDIS Annual Performance Test

Submitted by:	ENCWG Chair
Executive Summary:	ECDIS annual performance test
Related Documents:	Draft Guidelines on Annual Testing of ECDIS
Related Projects:	

Introduction / Background

The IHO were requested by CIRM on 13th December 2016 to comment on their draft proposals for the introduction of an ECDIS APT. The Technical Director at the IHB instructed the ENCWG to carry out the review observations were to be sent back to the IHB to respond.

Analysis/Discussion

There are a number of factors which necessitate the introduction of the ECDIS APT:

- The wider introduction of ECDIS and its increasing use as the primary means of navigation;
- The necessity to keep ECDIS up-to-date in terms of compliance with current IHO standards, which have been updated to address ECDIS anomalies identified by previous IHO research;
- The successful implementation of the Annual Performance Test for the Voyage Data Recorder (VDR), observing that ECDIS is at least as important as the VDR for the safety of navigation;
- The practical difficulties encountered when trying to reach vessels that have changed owner/operator, etc.;
- The growing number of ECDIS-related PSC detentions¹, a proportion of which are due to the technical conditions of the ECDIS, combined with a broad interpretation of the requirements by PSC inspectors due to a lack of clear rules.

Conclusions

The introduction of an ECDIS APT will ensure that in-service ECDIS are capable of satisfying all the requirements for ECDIS as laid down in SOLAS regulations V/19.2 and V/27, MSC.232(82) and MSC.1/Circ.1503. The eventual aim of CIRM is to get the guidelines published by IMO. In order to do that they will need to gain the support of external parties. The comments IHO have provided will be consolidated into a final draft document which will be prepared for IMO approval. CIRM will be approaching IMO Member State(s) to make a proposal to MSC for an unplanned IMO output.

Recommendations

It is strongly recommended that IHO MS make the relevant parties aware of the IHO contribution to the development of the ECDIS guidelines and endorse the ECDIS APT when approached by CIRM.

Action Required of ENC WG

The ENC WG is invited to:

- a. note the report