

**4th IHO-HSSC Meeting
Taunton, UK, 25-28 September 2012**

Paper for Consideration by HSSC

Proposal to formalize the identifiers for S-100 based product specifications

Submitted by:	UK
Executive Summary:	This paper proposes a formalized method of identifying S-100 based products. As S-100 is used within the wider community and in e-navigation a formal system of identifiers is required. This paper outlines an approach which would require changes to the GI Registry and S-99.
Related Documents:	1. S-100
Related Projects:	e-Navigation

Introduction / Background

1. S-100 edition 1.0.0 was published in January 2010 and the first S-100 based product specification S-102 has been published. S-101 is also in development through TSMAD and other organizations such as JCOMM ETSI, IEHG and IALA are developing or preparing to develop S-100 compliant product specifications. Currently the S-XXX identifier has been used for IHO product specifications but there is a need to formalize product specification identifiers as the wider community uses S-100.

Analysis/Discussion

2. Currently S-100 part 11 (Table 11-2) specifies that a product specification identifier must be unique but gives no further guidance. To date the HSSC has used S-XXX identifiers in accordance with IHO resolution 3/1957 (as amended). However as S-100 is used more widely by other organizations a formal nomenclature would enable the rapid identification of an S-100 based product specification and its responsible organization.

3. Any identifier must be unique (as stated in S-100 Part 11) and it is proposed that it should also immediately indicate the producer organization of the product specification. It is logical to include a numerical element but to avoid confusion it is necessary to assign a range of numerical values to avoid confusion between product specifications with the same number and different responsible organizations. Consequently the proposed format for identifiers would be as follows:

“Producer identifier” – “Numeric identifier”

Where the producer identifier is assigned in a product specification responsible organization register and the numeric identifier is from a range allocated within that register. Example register entry:

Producer identifier	S
Organization	International Hydrographic Organization
Numerical range minimum	101
Numerical range maximum	199

This would support the following identifiers and examples:

S – 101-199 = IHO Endorsed product specification, identifier assigned by the HSSC.

A-200-299 = ‘other organization’ endorsed product specification, identifier assigned by ‘authority within other organisation’ (within range assigned in register).

4. To support this approach, changes would be necessary to the GI Registry and to S-99. S-100 would also require modification at its next revision. It should also be clarified that for IHO product specifications, the HSSC is responsible for assigning identifiers.

Conclusion

6. The proliferation of S-100 is already beginning; to ensure product specifications can be clearly identified, a formal system of identifiers is required. The proposal in this document supports the currently assigned identifiers, it ensures identifiers cannot be confused and offer easy identification of the producer organization. TSMAD is the appropriate body to agree the details and action required changes to the GI Registry.

Recommendations

7. The recommendations of this paper are as follows:
 - a. A formal nomenclature is required for S-100 based product specifications.
 - b. TSMAD should develop the GI Registry and revise S-99 based on the proposal laid out in this document.

Action Required of HSSC

8. The HSSC is invited to:
 - a. Endorse the above recommendations.