

**5TH MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
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Paper for Consideration by HSSC5

**Revision of IHO Publication S-66
Facts about Electronic Charts and Carriage Requirements**

Submitted by:	IHB
Executive Summary:	This paper reviews the status of IHO Publication S-66 - <i>Facts about electronic charts and carriage requirements</i> and considers the need to undertake a revision of the current edition.
Related Documents:	CL 64/2008 dated 31 July - <i>Adoption of the information booklet "Facts about electronic charts and carriage requirements" as an IHO Publication - S-66</i> Final minutes of CHRIS20 (section 11) CL 5/2010 dated 13 January - <i>IHO Publication S-66 - Facts about electronic charts and carriage requirements</i> HSSC5-07.2A - <i>IMO activities affecting HSSC</i> HSSC5-10A - <i>Draft HSSC Work Plan</i>
Related Projects:	Monitoring of ECDIS issues HSSC Work Plan

Background

1. In 2004, Primar and IC-ENC issued a booklet called "Facts about Electronic Charts and Carriage Requirements" to serve as a reference frame for people involved in the use of charts and electronic chart display equipment, covering manufacturers, distributors, users, ship owners, regulatory authorities, pilots, harbour authorities and others. A second edition was published in 2007.
2. Following a proposal by the WEND Task Group, IHO Member States agreed in 2008 to adopt the booklet as an IHO publication and to seek subsequently co-sponsorship of the document with IMO. Subsequently, CHRIS (now HSSC) agreed at its 20th meeting (November 2008) that the new IHO publication S-66 would be maintained by the Primar / IC-ENC Joint Information WG (JIWG) on behalf of HSSC as owner of S-66.
3. Following a revision and update by the JIWG and a general review conducted at the IHB, the first edition of S-66 was published in January 2010 (English version). With the support of the relevant Member States, additional versions in Spanish, Portuguese and Japanese have been published.
4. The maintenance of S-66 is included in task 2.2.2 of the IHO Work Programme 2013-2017 under element 2.2 "Hydrographic Data Transfer Standards". No specific action has been planned in the current HSSC Work Plan 2013-2014.

Analysis

5. S-66 is composed of a number of interrelated sections as follows:

- Section 1: Overview of electronic charting and regulations;
- Section 2: A list of points of contact for detailed information on Flag State Implementation of ECDIS;
- Section 3: ECDIS Training;
- Section 4: Technical aspects of electronic charts;
- Section 5: Appendix: References, glossary, further reading.

Cross-references to the relevant IMO instruments and circulars are inserted when applicable.

6. Since January 2010, a number of events have occurred which are not reflected in the current edition, notably in relation with the so-called “ECDIS operation anomalies”. They include in particular:

6.1. The promulgation or amendment of a number of IMO Circulars related to the operation of ECDIS (MSC.1/Circ.1391 - *Operating anomalies identified within ECDIS*, SN.1/Circ.266/Rev.1 - *Maintenance of ECDIS Software*, SN.1/Circ.312 - *Operating anomalies identified within ECDIS*, STCW.7/Circ.18 - *ECDIS Training*);

6.2. The development and implementation of the IHO ECDIS Data Presentation and Performance Check;

6.3. The revision of IHO Publication S-63 - *IHO Data Protection Scheme*;

6.4. The progress in ENC coverage, affecting the possible use of RNC or paper charts as alternatives;

6.5. The possible obsolescence of a number of practical information, such as the list of the websites of Flag State Authorities (section 2).

7. Following a proposal submitted by Australia, Canada, UK, ICS, Nautical Institute (NI) and IHO, the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) agreed at its 90th session (May 2012) to include an unplanned output addressing the “Consolidation of ECDIS-related IMO circulars” in the agenda of the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV) with a target completion year of 2014. Following this, a draft “guidance for good practice” was developed by Australia, Canada, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the IHO, the NI, ICS and CIRM. The draft was submitted to NAV 59 (September 2013). After considerable discussion, the Sub-committee requested Member Governments to review the draft, in order to enable all guidance related to ECDIS issues to be incorporated in a single new circular, thereby replacing the numerous existing circulars. It is therefore highly improbable that a new draft will be finalized and approved by MSC in 2014.

8. As reported in paper HSSC5-07.2A, some of the co-sponsors have suggested incorporating the draft guidance as it stands into the IHO documentation. One option could be to include the guidance in a new edition of S-66.

9. The relevance and usefulness of IHO Publication S-66 is directly related to it being kept up to date. Considering the above analysis, it is now a matter of priority to revise the current edition.

10. Five options may be considered to conduct the revision of S-66:

- revision by a working group of HSSC;
- revision by the IHB;
- reactivation of the JIWG by Primar and IC-ENC;
- revision by an ad hoc group of volunteers, (maybe drawn from the former JIWG);
- revision through contract support, subject to the availability of the appropriate resources (expertise and budget).

The first two options do not seem realistic, considering the current work plan.

Conclusion

11. It is necessary to consider revising S-66 and to identify the appropriate resources.

Recommendations

12. Based on the above analysis, it is recommended to:
 - 12.1. plan the revision of S-66 in the HSSC work plan 2014-2015;
 - 12.2. invite Member States to propose to the IHB, directly or through Primar and IC-ENC, experts who could contribute to the task on a voluntary or contractual basis;
 - 12.3. request the IHB to implement the most suitable solution on the basis of the proposal of Member States;
 - 12.4. consider in the longer term a sustainable maintenance procedure and include the appropriate tasks in the subsequent edition of the HSSC work plan.

Justification / Impacts

13. Continuing to offer an out-of-date publication intended for a wide audience in the context of the uptake of ECDIS would have a negative impact on the reputation of the IHO.
14. It would undermine the collective commitment of the IHO and its Member States, reiterated by the 18th International Hydrographic Conference, to continue to take a leading role in addressing ECDIS issues and provide support to all stakeholders.

Action required of HSSC

15. The HSSC is invited to:
 - a. **note** this report;
 - b. **endorse** the recommendations in paragraph 12, and
 - c. **take** any other action as appropriate.