

**5TH MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
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IALA Briefing Paper for HSSC

## **IALA Product Specifications and Domain Management**

### **1 SUMMARY**

#### **1.1 Purpose of the document**

This paper provides an update on the status of IALA work on preparing Product Specifications compatible with the IHO S-100 standard and procedures for the management of IALA Domains within the IHO Registry.

#### **1.2 Related documents**

- 1 IALA Guideline 1087 on Procedures for Management of the IALA Domains
- 2 IALA Guideline on Preparation of S-100 Product Specifications
- 3 Report of an IALA Workshop on Preparation of S-100 Product Specifications, June 2013

### **2 BACKGROUND**

Following publication of the IHO S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model as an international standard in 2010, it was agreed that it should be used as the baseline for the Common Maritime Data Structure required for e-Navigation.

There is a Memorandum of Understanding between the IHO and IALA, which was signed in 2001 and covers work on the IHO Registry, which is governed by S-99. Within the IHO Registry, external Submitting Organisations may submit Product Specifications and IALA has been preparing such specifications and procedures for management of IALA Domains in the IHO Registry.

IALA has a seat on the IHO working group TSMAD (Transfer Standard Maintenance and Applications Development) which develops and maintains the S-99 and S-100 standards.

### **3 DISCUSSION**

IALA Guideline 1087 sets out potential solutions for the management of the IALA Domain. The approach adopted was to nominate a Domains Manager under the authority of the Deputy Secretary General, with overall responsibility for the quality and submission of IALA Product Specifications. Field Managers, generally drawn from the IALA Technical Committees, have the specialised knowledge of particular areas of technology such as Aids to Navigation, AIS and VTS and develop the specifications.

The development of guidance on procedures and preparation of specifications is carried out by a Data Modelling Working Group within the IALA e-Navigation Committee.

An IALA Workshop on Product Specifications was held in June 2013, with participation from IHO experts. This workshop produced a guideline on developing Product Specifications and refined the guideline on procedures.

During this workshop it became apparent that some applications involving data streaming would not be compatible with S-100 in its present form and work was begun on how the standard might be adapted to cater for such applications. A submission to TSMAD is in preparation.

#### **4 PROGRESS WITH PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS**

The first IALA Product Specification is likely to be on Aid to Navigation Information and this is quite mature. It is planned to finalise it early in 2014 for submission to IHO. Another specification on an Inter-VTS Exchange Format was under development when the data streaming problem was recognised, so this is awaiting possible modification of S-100. Other specifications on Application Specific Messages and Maritime Safety Information are at various stages of development.