

SIXTH MEETING OF THE INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (IRCC6)**19-20 May 2014, Paris, France****Paper for the consideration of IRCC****Revision of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors (S-5, Ed. 11.1.0) and Nautical Cartographers (S-8, Ed. 3.1.0)**

<i>Submitted by:</i>	IBSC
<i>Executive Summary:</i>	This paper provides a feedback on the revision of S-5 and S-8 standards.
<i>Related Documents:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) S-5 and S-8 draft publication for discussion : S-5 Ed. 11.1.0 and S-8 Ed. 3.1.0 b) IHO Resolution 2/2007 (as amended) - Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications.
<i>Related Projects:</i>	N/A

Introduction and Background

IBSC developed the S-5 and S-8 revision drafts during its 37th meeting in Lisbon. The final draft has been posted on the IHO internet site, and the CL 11/2014 asked for Member States' feedback. The feedbacks were compiled and presented during the IBSC Stakeholder seminar on 7 March 2014, in Monaco.

The proposed modifications to the current S-5 and S-8 standards are summarized hereafter:

- Provision for e-learning component as part of submissions;
- Request for an annual report, and comprehensive internal assessment every 3-5 years;
- IBSC on-site program review process and content (internal review documents, on-site visits, outcomes);
- Guidelines for practical exercises and field training;
- Minimum Time frames:
 - Category B: 24 weeks, and 16 weeks with exemptions
 - Category A: 2 semesters + field training

Analysis/Discussion

1. 18 member states responded to CL11/2014 ;

2. Very large majority of approval;
3. Some Member States consider Category B as a pre-requisite for Category A. The *IBSC does not*.
4. In cases where a Category A programme is preceded immediately prior by a Category B programme then the time frames for the Category A program may take into account the time devoted to the Category B program: *No objection from the Board*.

Conclusions

S-5 and S-8 standards revision have been intensively presented and discussed with the stakeholders. The feedback from both responses to CLs and the IBSC stakeholder seminar are favourable to the revision.

Justification and Impacts

The proposed revisions intends to improve the quality of course submission, to take into account new modes of delivery, while maintaining minimum standards of competences for Hydrographers and Cartographers

Action Required of IRCC

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. note this report
- b. endorse the revision of S-5 and S-8 standards and invite the IHB to issue a circular letter seeking Member States approval for the two publications
- c. take any other action as appropriate