

**SIXTH MEETING OF THE INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (IRCC6)****19-20 May 2014, Paris, France****Paper for the consideration of IRCC****New S-5A and S-5B development Work Plan**

<i>Submitted by:</i>	<b>IBSC</b>
<i>Executive Summary:</i>	This paper provides the work plan and schedule for the new edition of the S-5B and S-5A standards
<i>Related Documents:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) CL 14/2013 dated 16 November - Finalised IHO Work Programme for 2013</li> <li>b) IHO Resolution 2/2007 (as amended) - Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications</li> <li>c) 2014 IHO Work Programme – Task 3.3.9.1</li> </ul>
<i>Related Projects:</i>	

**Introduction and Background**

The S-5 and S-8 Standards evolution into four separate standards (S-5 Category A, S-5 Category B) and (S-8 Category A, S-8 Category B) is part of the IHO work program 2013-2017, under tasks 3.3.9 (2013-2017 IHO Work Programme) and 3.3.9.1 (2013 IHO Work Programme) . The IHO CL14/2013, addressed to IHO National Focal Points and stakeholders, recalled the objective of these tasks:

3.3.9 IBSC to develop a new Standards framework to separate competency requirements for Category A and Category B hydrographers and nautical cartographers by developing two discrete parts in the standards S-5 and S-8 and update their content to comply with the scientific and technological developments in the fields of Hydrography and Nautical Cartography.

3.3.9.1 IBSC to develop a new Standards framework to separate competency requirements for Category A and Category B.

Responses to CL 14/2013 have been reviewed during the IBSC36 meeting in Lisbon (Portugal), the 1<sup>st</sup> IBSC Stakeholders' Seminar in Monaco (7 March 2014) and the IBSC37 meeting in Tokyo (Japan).

**Analysis/Discussion**

The Board acknowledged the replies from eight Member States (Chile, France, Finland, India, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain and UK) and from two external stakeholders (International Federation of Hydrographic Societies and one lecturer from Plymouth University). The Board decided not to discard any suggestion at this stage and further consider the suggestions made during the revision process.

*There is broad support to the proposal, the rationale and the recognition of a broader spectrum of activities for Hydrographers and Cartographers.*

1. Attention is called upon the need to evolve but a broad analysis (technical, legal and economic aspects) is required.
2. IHO Resolution 2/2007 needs to be accounted for in the process of revising the standards.
3. Keep safety of navigation as the cornerstone where the other usages are built around. The development of courses “à la carte” should be avoided, meaning that the Options (S-5) and Specialisms (S-8) should not take the place of the core parts in the minimum standards on Hydrography and Cartography.
4. There was a suggestion to consider using Hydrographic (Cartographic) Engineer and Hydrographic (Cartographic) Technician instead of Category A and Category B, in order to give the proper alignment to other professions.
5. Some Member States consider Category A as a natural evolution of a Category B and thus the process of separation has to consider this dependency. However, others presented an opposite view that there should be a differentiation and the Category A and Category B developments should be done independently, as the intellectual skills are different.
6. There is a need to clarify how to progress from Category B to Category A or if it is a prerequisite to do a Category B before a Category A.
7. There is support for using modular and blending (presence and distance) learning to bring more knowledge on board the courses.
8. There are concerns that this revision will lead to lengthier courses and academic increase to a Master of Sciences (MSc) level.
9. The lack of adequate record of experience and competency was pointed and proposed IHO/FIG/ICA to maintain a qualified database.
10. There was a suggestion to improve the description of the attribution of the Category A and Category B hydrographers and cartographers.
11. Stakeholders pointed to the growth of the market and the need for experienced hydrographers.

The new S5-B (Basics, Essentials) has been drafted by IBSC working groups. The S5-B draft does not incorporate any option, but focus on core competences of Category B hydrographers in a broad sense. The format of the syllabus has been changed to a “learning outcomes” oriented description. This new format has been presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> IBSC Stakeholder seminar, reviewed and approved during the IBSC37 meeting, Tokyo, 11-17 March 2014. A draft of the S-5B will be available by 15 June 2014.

The IBSC proposed work plan for the new standards development is as follows:

- June 2014 : First draft of the S-5B and guidelines to be ready; Publication for discussion on the IHO web site;
- CL to be issued in order to inform stakeholders of S5-B publication for discussion and seeking feedback;
- Regional Stakeholder seminars to be organized in 2014-2015 (Aberdeen 2014, Washington DC March 2015);
- February 2015: First Draft of the S5-A and guide lines to be ready; Publication for discussion on the IHO web site;
- CL to be issued in order to inform stakeholders of S5-A publication for discussion and seeking feedback;
- 23 March 2015- 2 April 2015 : IBSC38 meeting (Brazil) : Analysis of stakeholder responses;
- April 2015: Final versions of S-5A, S5-B and guidelines for the S5-A and B to be ready;
- Submission of S-5B, S-5A and guidelines to IRCC7 for endorsement;
- Final versions of S5-B and S5-A to be published by July 2015.

**Conclusions**

S-5B and S5-A standards new editions should be in force by July 2015 and would apply for the 2015 submission process, prior to the IBSC39 meeting in 2016.

**Action Required of IRCC**

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. note this report;
- b. endorse the IBSC work plan for new S5-A and S5-B development;
- c. take any other action as appropriate.