

**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
(IRCC7)**

1-3 June 2015, Mexico City, Mexico

Paper for the consideration of IRCC

S-5B Standards development and feedback from Member States and Stakeholders

<i>Submitted by:</i>	IBSC
<i>Executive Summary:</i>	This paper provides the development plan for new S-5B and S-5A standards.
<i>Related Documents:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>S-5B draft (publication for discussion)</i> b) <i>IHO Circular Letter 14/2013 dated 15 February – IBSC, Revision of the Standards</i> c) <i>IHO Circular Letter 31/2015 dated 10 April – IBSC, Development of the new IHO Publications: S-5A Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors Category A and S-5B Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors Category B.</i> d) <i>CL 98/2012 dated 16 November - Finalised IHO Work Programme for 2013</i> e) <i>IHO Resolution 2/2007 - Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications</i> f) <i>2015 IHO WP 3.3.9.1: IBSC to develop a new Standards framework to separate competency requirements for Cat A and Cat B</i>
<i>Related Project:</i>	NA

Introduction and Background

In the framework of the 2015 IHO Work Programme, task 3.3.9.1, the IBSC is developing the new standards of competences for nautical hydrographers and cartographers. Following CL14/2013 and the MSs positive feedback on the rationale for separating category A and category B standards, the Board has undertaken to write the new standards: S-5B and S5-A for Category B and A hydrographic surveyors and S-8B and S8-A for Category B and A nautical cartographers.

Status of the development of new standards

The Board drafted S-5B between September 2013 and June 2014. As draft has been made ready as a publication for discussion in 23 June 2014. A circular letter (CL31/2015) have been sent to MSs.

Prior to this, through two stakeholder seminars (March 2014, Monaco and October 2014, Aberdeen), the Board explained the new adopted description of the standards in terms in intended learning

outcomes and content which appear now in separate form for each subject items as well as the focus of core competences of hydrographers and the suppression of options.

From June 2014 to now, the Board started to draft the new S-5A, focusing on core competencies of Category A hydrographic surveyors. In April 2015, the Board started to draft the S-8B.

New standards development plan update

The development plan of the S-5B and S-5A is as follows (CL31/2015 refers):

10 April 2015	CL31/2015 issuing
15 May 2015	Deadline for responses to this Circular Letter for the S-5B standards
20 May 2015	Analysis of the responses to this Circular Letter and submission of S-5B to IRCC7 for endorsement
1 June 2015	IRCC7 consideration
15 June 2015	Circular Letter to seek Member States endorsement of S-5B (pending IRCC7 endorsement)
15 August 2015	Deadline for votes from Member States (pending IRCC7 endorsement)
1 January 2016	S-5B in force (pending Member States approval)
15 April 2016	CL xx/2016 on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors – S-5A
1 April 2016	First draft of S-5A ready for circulation seeking comments and feedback by Circular Letter
15 May 2016	Deadline for responses to the previous Circular Letter for S-5A Standards
20 May 2016	Analysis of the responses to the previous Circular Letter for S-5A and submission to IRCC8 for endorsement
May/June 2016	IRCC8 consideration
15 June 2016	Circular Letter to seek Member States endorsement of S-5A (pending IRCC8 endorsement)
15 August 2016	Deadline for votes from Member States (pending IRCC8 endorsement)
1 September 2016	S-5A in force (pending Member States approval)

Feedback and next submissions for Category B programmes

The stakeholder's feedback on the new standards is positive. Additional material concerning the feedback on the CL31/2015 will be presented during IRCC7, and the Board, based on this feedback will ask IRCC to endorse the S-5B.

Due to the significant changes in the S-5B with respect to the existing S-5, the Board proposes, in case of favourable feedback from MSs, to set the S-5B in force in January 2016 in order to give an adaptation period to institutions. In case of positive feedback on the S-5A, the Board suggests to put them in force by September 2016, in order to have both S-5A and S-5B in force at the same time and therefore avoid possible overlaps between S-5 and S-5B for submission due to December 2015.

Conclusions

S-5B standards have been intensively presented and discussed with the stakeholders. Feedback to the CL31/2015 will be analysed and presented to IRCC7.

Justification and Impacts

The proposed revisions intend to improve the quality of course submissions and 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 S-5B based on the material presented at IRCC7 on CL31/2015 feedback;
- c. take any other action as appropriate.