

13th TSMAD MEETING
18 to 22 September 2006 – Wellington, New Zealand

Correction to S-58 tests 506 and 1729

In performing acceptance testing for the latest SP1 for dkart Inspector 5.0, NOAA discovered a discrepancy between test 506 and 1729 and the S-57 ENC product Specification 3.1. NOAA seeks to have the S-58 tests changed or clarified.

Background

NOAA has occasions where it chooses at its own discretion not to encode certain objects. The main reason is that NOAA does not have enough information to fully attribute the values. The most obvious case is that many times NOAA will not encode the mandatory attribute COLOUR for the object BEACON, as the BEACON is just the structure which holds the light or daymark. Many times we do not have the information to properly encode the colour. According to the product specification it is perfectly acceptable for a hydrographic office to encode the value as unknown.

Problem

The S-58 test 506 and 1729 is a direct contradiction to the product specification, where in section 3.5.1 states:

“In a base data set (EN application profile), when an attribute code is present but the attribute value is missing, it means that the producer wishes to indicate that this attribute value is unknown.”

Also in the Clarifications document 3.CL.8 it also states in regard to Mandatory Attributes:

“The existing text does not make it clear whether an attribute code or attribute value is being considered mandatory and the following clarification is provided: “If the value of the mandatory attribute is unknown, it must be encoded as described in S-57 Appendix A Chapter 2, Paragraph 2.1 Introduction – Expected Input.”

This has been superseded by 7.Co.24 which further states:

“All mandatory attributes for an encoded object must be present in an ENC, however if the value of the mandatory attribute is not known, the attribute must be encoded as a missing attribute value (see clause 3.5.1)”

Solution

NOAA suggests that the S-58 test 506 be amended to a Warning or to state that ‘unknown’ is acceptable.

NOAA suggests that the S-58 test 1729 be amended to state:
Mandatory attributes must be encoded with explicit values (including ‘unknown’)