

Paper for Consideration by TSMAD/DIPWG

S-101 Support File Formats

Submitted by:	S-101 Work Item
Executive Summary:	This paper is identify potential S-101 support file formats and how they will be managed
Related Documents:	TSMAD18-16.3H Support Files
Related Projects:	NA

Introduction / Background

S-101 gives the opportunity to expand the list of allowable support files and to improve upon the management of support files. At the last TSMAD/DIPWG meeting a paper was presented on the formatting and management of ENC support files (TSMAD 18-16.3H support files). In addition, the type of support files and subsequent management were discussed at the recent S-101 Stakeholders meeting. This paper is to outline the potential issues with support files and support file management and come to a decision regarding what will be put into S-101 in regards to this topic.

Analysis/Discussion

The following are excerpts from the March 2010 S-101 stakeholders workshop in regards to support files:

1. Are the recommendations for the management of support files implementable?
 - In regards to support file updating. The Standard needs to state how it should behave and not state how it should be implemented. Basically, state that if an update deletes a text file, it should look for the instances where that text file appears (in other cells) and make sure it is not referenced elsewhere before the deletion takes place.
 - General consensus that support files need to have more intelligence. Possibly explore the use of hyperlinks from the feature in the cell that would go to the correct note in the text file, rather than having the mariner scroll through multiple notes.

ACTION: Resubmit the UKHO paper on support files to TSMAD/DIPWG for additional discussion on how support files should be managed. (Phase 2 in S-101)

2. How can we future proof the introduction of new formats which may be used for support file?
 - Furuno pointed out that because of type approval where the OS is also type approved that the list of file formats need to be platform independent. For example it would have to work on older OS's that where type approved. (or type approval should not worry about this)
 - Suggestion that TSMAD look use the W3 web standards for formats
 - Agreement that the formats should include: Text, HTML, Audio, Video
 - The list of formats should be updateable – but what does this do to type approval. A suggestion was made to specify the same formats in the VDR specification IEC 66225. The IMO VDR states the following:

The software should be compatible with an operating system available with commercial-off-the-shelf laptop computers and where nonstandard or proprietary formats are used for storing the data in the VDR, the software should convert the stored data into open industry standard formats.

Conclusions

In summary, TSMAD and DIPWG need to answer the following questions for S-101:

1. Should TSMAD/DIPWG use the language in the IEC 66225 VDR specification in regards to support file formats or should S-101 specify file types.
2. If file types are specified, what formats should be supported to make S-101 future proof?
 - a. Text
 - b. HTML
 - c. Audio
 - d. Video
3. In regards to support file management, should S-101 specify the implementation or just specify that redundant files are deleted?
4. What information regarding support files needs to go into the S-101 Discovery Metadata and S-101 Catalogue file?