

Paper for Consideration by TSMAD

S-100 Product Specification Template

Submitted by:	S-101 Work Item Leader
Executive Summary:	TSMAD work plan item A.1 states that TSMAD will “Develop a template Product Specification for Marine Information Overlays”. This paper will update TSMAD on the progress of this work item and the next steps.
Related Documents:	S-100
Related Projects:	S-100 Product Specifications

Introduction / Background

As S-100 gains further traction in the Hydrographic community for the development of different products, it has become apparent that TSMAD needs to provide a basic template to assist other IHO working groups and non-IHO bodies in developing an S-100 conformant product specification. As a result of this need HSSC added to the TSMAD work plan the following: “Develop a template Product Specification for Marine Information Overlays.” This paper will report on the progress of this work item.

Analysis/Discussion

While TSMAD has the expertise to develop S-100 based product specification, it does not have the resources or the mandate to develop every S-100 based product specification. One of the key principles of S-100 is the further standardization of products to be used on ship-board navigation systems, shore-based systems and other applications. While S-100 does detail what should go into a product specification – it is open to interpretation regarding format and content, even TSMAD has debated what certain things really mean.

In order to assist other IHO working groups and outside entities such as WMO and IALA to create an S-100 product specification, it has become clear that a template is necessary for those not as familiar with S-100 to create a product that is standardized and complies to S-100. This became increasingly obvious, when NOAA’s Office of Coast Survey was asked by NOAA’s National Weather Service to assist in creating a WMO product specification for Ocean Forecasts.

As a result, a prototype template was created by stripping out S-101 and providing additional guidance as to how the template should be used. This sample template is in Annex A.

Conclusions

It should be noted that this template is only a prototype and it is expected that it will be further refined as more product specifications are created. This template is seen as a further step in assisting other entities outside of TSMAD on the creation of S-100 compliant product specifications.

Recommendations

It is recommended that TSMAD review this template and suggest potential modifications and improvements. It is also recommended that even though it is only a prototype that it be posted on the IHO S-100 page for use by other organizations.

Action Required of TSMAD

The TSMAD is invited to:

- a. endorse the S-100 product specification template (in principle)
- b. recommend further improvements to the template
- c. agree to finalizing the template at TSMAD26 for endorsement by HSSC5.