



TRANSFER STANDARD MAINTENANCE & APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP (TSMADWG)

[A Working Group of the Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems – CHRIS]

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TSMAD Letter: 02/2005

To: TSMAD Members

Date 12 September 2005

Subject: Actions assigned to TSMAD at CHRIS17

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to report to you on action items that were assigned to TSMAD by CHRIS17. I am sending this to you in advance of TSMAD12, which will take place this November in Wollongong, Australia, so that you will have some time to prepare for the work that we have been tasked to do at that meeting. You will be interested to know that issues related to S-57, ENC and ECDIS were the primary discussion topics of the week.

After a lively and productive ECDIS Stakeholders' Forum and similar sessions with the CHRIS members, several decisions were made that pertain to our Work Plan. First of all, S-57 Edition 4.0 is now officially designated S-100. Product specifications will be designated in series, for example the ENC PS will be S-101. Second, after considering the need for thorough testing and industry involvement in a new ENC PS, as well as the necessity for IHO adoption before publication, a date of 2012 was established as the earliest date that a new ENC PS (S-101) would be published by the IHO for use.

The form that S-101 will take has changed somewhat and Barrie Greenslade and I are now thinking that it will be more like the "3.2+" that Chris Roberts proposed. Barrie and I will be able to more easily explain the details in Wollongong. CHRIS has approved development of S-101 and work may begin. However, TSMAD has been tasked by CHRIS to prepare a paper that details the full impact of rolling out S-101 on the stakeholders. This paper is to be completed for submission at CHRIS18, next September.

The largest action that we have been assigned is the development of a minor revision to the current S-57 and ENC PS. This is to be known as "3.1.1" as suggested by Hannu Peiponen, who many of you know, from Furuno Finland. Using 3.1.1 will allow us to leave the name of the catalog file as "CATALOG.031" which is where we ran into problems when we went from 3.0 to 3.1. The target is to complete this work for submission to CHRIS18. This means that most of the work will have to be accomplished by correspondence.

CHRIS were very specific in the limits that are placed on what we can do in 3.1.1. We are to address only: new features introduced by IMO (PSSA, ASL) or features that affect safety of navigation that are not adequately addressed in the current PS. This is fully in line with our current rules concerning the 'frozen' status of the standard that require us to open the standard in the event that safety is compromised. Further, we are not to make any changes that would require re-type approval of an ECDIS. Any changes MUST be critically evaluated in terms of minimizing the impact on all stakeholders. Thus, a change that would cause recoding of existing data by HOs shall be avoided.

We may introduce new attribute values, new attributes and new objects as required. With a strong preference to use them in that order since new values are less of an impact than new attributes or objects. We are also instructed to investigate adding a set of 'placeholder' objects that have no assigned feature, so that future new requirements that may come before S-101 is completed can be accommodated without requiring a new edition.

I am requesting that you come to Wollongong with any proposed CRITICAL changes that your office feels MUST be included in 3.1.1. I highly suggest that you consider any proposal carefully before bringing it to the table, especially as a TSMAD member, from the standpoint of a HO that would have to re-code data. The fewer items we have to deliberate, the simpler the change, thus less impact and a job that we can get done in the time we have been allotted. Also keep in mind that with the current meeting schedule, we will only have this one full TSMAD meeting to work on this issue.

Due to the short notice on this issue, formal proposals for this task are not required to be submitted prior to the meeting, though I strongly encourage that you send any initial thoughts and ideas out to the TSMAD membership if at all possible prior to the meeting. I anticipate that to accommodate the ASL feature, the Australian proposals for ARCSLN and ASLXLN (TSMAD11 9-3B and 9-3C) will be submitted to TSMAD12. The PSSA, however, might be accommodated using a new value of CATREA rather than a new object (it is shown in the brand new INT 1 under Restricted Areas).

I hope to have a start by correspondence on the 'placeholder' objects prior to the meeting. Please participate in this task if at all possible.

I look forward to a very productive and work filled week in November. See you all there.

Yours sincerely,

/signed/

Michael B. Brown,

Chair