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Introduction to SOLAS Convention

(Hydrographic) Aspects of

SOLAS Convention, Chapter V

Safety of Life at Sea

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SOLAS Chapter I

- Governments commit to implement the convention
- Governments commit to establish laws and regulations to make the convention effective

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SOLAS Chapter V

- Regulation 2: Definitions
- Regulation 9: Hydrographic services
- Regulation 4: Navigational warnings
- Other regulations (12, 13, 19, 27)

Regulation 2: Definitions

Nautical chart or nautical publication is a special-purpose map or book, or a specially compiled database from which such a map or book is derived, that is issued officially by or on the authority of a Government, authorized Hydrographic Office or other relevant government institution and is designed to meet the requirements of marine navigation.*

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Regulation 2: Definitions

* Refer to appropriate resolutions and recommendations of the International Hydrographic Organization concerning the authority and responsibilities of coastal States in the provision of charting in accordance with regulation 9.

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Regulation 9: Hydrographic services

Regulation 9 of SOLAS Chapter V specifies very clearly the hydrographic services which have to be provided by Contracting Governments. The provision of these hydrographic services is, in effect, an obligation for the Contracting Governments under an International Treaty Law.

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Hydrographic Services:

1. Contracting Governments undertake to arrange for the collection and compilation of hydrographic data and the publication, dissemination and keeping up to date of all nautical information necessary for safe navigation.

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2. In particular, Contracting Governments undertake to co-operate in carrying out, as far as possible, the following nautical and hydrographic services, in the manner most suitable for the purpose of aiding navigation:

2.1. to ensure that hydrographic surveying is carried out, as far as possible, adequate to the requirements of safe navigation;

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2.2. to prepare and issue nautical charts, sailing directions, lists of lights, tide tables and other nautical publications, where applicable, satisfying the needs of safe navigation;

2.3. to promulgate notices to mariners in order that nautical charts and publications are kept, as far as possible, up to date; and

2.4. to provide data management arrangements to support these services.

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3. Contracting Governments undertake to ensure the greatest possible uniformity in charts and nautical publications and to take into account, whenever possible, relevant international resolutions and recommendations.*

* Refer to the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the International Hydrographic Organization

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4. Contracting Governments undertake to co-ordinate their activities to the greatest possible degree in order to ensure that hydrographic and nautical information is made available on a world-wide scale as timely, reliably and unambiguously as possible.

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Regulation 4: Navigational Warnings

Regulation 4 of SOLAS Chapter V places an obligation on Contracting Governments to ensure that appropriate navigational warnings are issued.

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SOLAS V/4 – Navigational Warnings

Each Contracting Government shall take all steps necessary to ensure that, when intelligence of any dangers is received from whatever reliable source, it shall be promptly brought to the knowledge of those concerned and communicated to other interested Governments. *

* Refer to the Guidance on the IMO/IHO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service adopted by the Organization by resolution A.706 (17), as amended

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SOLAS V/12 and 13 (covered by IALA)

12 – VTS

13 – AtoN

SOLAS V/19 and 27 (Mariners)

19 – Carriage requirements

27 – Nautical charts and publications

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Provision of Hydrographic Services and Navigational Warnings is an obligation, NOT an option.

Make sure the authorities above you understand their responsibilities.

You are actors in the effective implementation of the national infrastructure for the provision of hydrographic services and navigational warnings.

Questions?