



THIS CIRCULAR LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE

IHO File No. AB-4

CIRCULAR LETTER 45/2017
01 August 2017

**CALL FOR APPROVAL OF NEW EDITIONS OF IHO PUBLICATIONS S-8A AND S-8B –
STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR CATEGORY "A" AND CATEGORY "B"
NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHERS**

References:

- A. IHC-XVIII - Decision No. 18 - *IHO Work Programme 2013-2017*;
- B. IHO Circular Letter 90/2015 dated 17 December - *Adoption of the New Publication S-5B Edition 1.0.0 Standards Of Competence For Hydrographic Surveyors, Category B*;
- C. IHO Circular Letter 50/2016 dated 28 September - *Adoption of Edition 1.0.0 of IHO Publication S-5A - Standards of Competence for Category "A" Hydrographic Surveyors*;
- D. IHO Circular Letter 42/2016 dated 5 September - *Outcome of the 8th meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC8)*;
- E. IHO Circular Letter 57/2016 dated 10 October - *Call for comments on draft new edition 1.0.0 of IHO Publication S-8B Standards of Competence for Category "B" Nautical Cartographers*;
- F. IHO Circular Letter 6/2017 dated 24 January - *Call for comments on draft new edition 1.0.0 of IHO Publication S-8A Standards of Competence for Category "A" Nautical Cartographers*;
- G. IRCC9-07H2 - *Draft New Edition 1.0.0 of S-8A*;
- H. IRCC9-07H3 - *Draft New Edition 1.0.0 of S-8B*;
- I. IHO Assembly document A.1/MISC/03/Rev1 - *List of Decisions of the 1st Session of the IHO Assembly*;
- J. IHO Resolution 2/2007 as amended - *Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications*.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Task 3.3.9 of the 2013-2017 IHO Work Programme (Reference A) authorised the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) to develop separate competency requirements for Category "A" and Category "B" Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers. As announced in References B and C, the IHO adopted revised versions of the Standards of Competence for Category "B" and then Category "A" Hydrographic Surveyors (IHO Publications S-5B and S-5A).

2. In accordance with the IBSC work programme endorsed by the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) at its eighth meeting in Abu Dhabi, in May 2016 (see Reference D), the IBSC developed a similar set of separated Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers at the Category "B" and "A" levels, both drafts circulated for Member States' comments by References E and F, respectively. Both circular letters were also circulated to Stakeholders for their comments.

3. Comments and feedback received from References E and F were considered by the IBSC at its 40th meeting in March 2017 in Wellington, New Zealand and reported to the IRCC at its ninth meeting

in June 2017 in Paramaribo, Suriname together with the revised draft Editions 1.0.0 of IHO Publications S-8A and S-8B, *Standards of Competence for Category "A" and Category "B" Nautical Cartographers* (References G and H respectively). IRCC endorsed both draft Editions 1.0.0 of S-8A and S-8B (Decision IRCC9/34) and requested the IHO Secretariat to seek approval directly from Member States (Action IRCC9/26) through Circular Letter voting rather than via submission to the Council. This was agreed by the First Session of the IHO Assembly and recorded as Decision Number 15 (see Reference I).

4. Similarly to S-5A and S-5B, the new Editions of S-8A and S-8B will be supplemented by the companion document - *Guidelines for the Implementation of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers*. This guiding document is intended to assist educational and training organizations in the preparation of submissions to the IBSC in relation to the relevant Standards of Competence. The document was developed by the IBSC from the *Guidelines for the Implementation of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors* in order to refer to the four Standards and is available for consultation on the IHO website at:

www.iho.int → Standards & Publications → Download → S-5A/S-5B Companion Document

5. In accordance with the process of consultation required under Reference J, the draft editions of S-8A and S-8B are now available (*in English only*) on the IHO website at:

www.iho.int → Standards & Publications → Download → Draft Publications Awaiting Approval by Member States.

6. Member States are requested to take into account the endorsement of the IRCC and to consider the adoption of the proposed Editions 1.0.0 of S-8A and S-8B by providing their reply on the Voting Form, provided in the Annex, at their earliest convenience and **no later than 25 September 2017**.

7. Member States are invited to note that in accordance with Article IX (f) of the IHO Convention as amended, the decision shall be taken by a majority of the Member States that cast a vote before the deadline, with the minimum number of affirmative votes being at least one-third of all Member States entitled to vote on the date of issue of this Circular Letter.

8. Subject to the approval of the new Editions of S8-A and S8-B by the Member States, institutions seeking recognition of their nautical cartography programmes by the IBSC in 2018 (at the IBSC41 meeting) will be expected to submit their programmes based on Editions 1.0.0 of S-8A and S-8B.

9. The IBSC also submitted an article to the International Hydrographic Review for its November 2017 edition discussing the rationale behind the new format adopted for the presentation of the standards and offering information useful to institutions in the development of training programmes with the intention of gaining recognition. The paper may also be useful to the Member States in providing a further insight to the process followed by the IBSC for developing and maintaining the Standards of Competence. The submitted article is available (*in English only*) on the IHO website at:

www.iho.int → Capacity Building → Article submitted to the IHR

On behalf of the Secretary-General
Yours sincerely,



Mustafa IPTES
Director

Annex: Voting Form

Distribution:

- IHO Member States

Copy for information:

- Training and Education Institutions recognised by the IBSC

**S-8A AND S-8B – STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR CATEGORY "A" AND
CATEGORY "B" NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHERS
Approval of Editions 1.0.0**

Voting Form

(to be returned to the IHO Secretariat by 25 September 2017)

E-mail: cl-lc@iho.int - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

Note: The boxes will expand as you type your answers.

Member State:
Contact:
E-mail:

1) Do you approve the adoption of the proposed Edition 1.0.0 of S-8A (*tick the appropriate box*)?

YES NO

If you answer 'NO', please explain your reasons in the comment section below.

Comments :

2) Do you approve the adoption of the proposed Edition 1.0.0 of S-8B (*tick the appropriate box*)?

YES NO

If you answer 'NO', please explain your reasons in the comment section below.

Comments :

Signature :
Date :