

3rd IHO Workshop of Technical Experts to Resolve ECDIS Operating Anomalies

Introduction to Agenda Item # 5 (Options)

Consolidation of ECDIS-related IMO Circulars

1. At MSC 90 (May 2012), Australia, Canada, ICS, IHO and The Nautical Institute, submitted a paper (MSC 90/25/13), which proposed the consolidation of ECDIS-related information contained in several IMO circulars, into a single IMO document.
2. By way of background, at MSC 88 and 89, there were discussions on progress being made with resolving the apparent anomalies within some ECDIS systems. MSC referred this matter to NAV 57 (July 2011), so that the Sub-Committee could provide advice to MSC 90.
3. With the implementation of an ECDIS carriage requirement from 1 July 2012, the sponsors of the paper are particularly concerned that the shipping industry needs clear and unambiguous guidance to ensure the safest and most efficient transition from paper to ECDIS navigation. The proposal aims to help clarify ECDIS carriage requirements, prevent misinterpretation of the regulations and, most importantly, enhance the safety of navigation.
4. While much useful IMO guidance already exists, it has been necessarily developed incrementally, and on a reactive basis. If existing information can be brought together in a single document, it will substantially improve the understanding and provide uniform interpretation for the implementation of the ECDIS carriage requirement.
5. NAV 58 (July 2012) noted that MSC 90 had agreed to include in the 2012-13 biennial agenda of the NAV Sub-Committee, an unplanned output on “Consolidation of ECDIS-related IMO Circulars”, with a target completion year of 2014.
6. This meeting needs to discuss and agree on the way ahead to complete this task.
