

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

Introduction to Agenda Item # 5 (Options)

Footnote to SOLAS V/27

1. At MSC 90 (May 2012), Australia, the United Kingdom, the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the Nautical Institute (NI) submitted a paper (MSC 90/25/14), that contained a proposal for a new unplanned output which aimed to offer clarifications to the regulatory requirements for nautical charts and nautical publications related to ECDIS contained in SOLAS V /27.
2. By way of background, at MSC 89, the IHO reported on some operating anomalies identified within ECDIS (MSC 89/24/2 refers). At the same session, other Member States also commented on this issue (MSC 89/24/3 refers) and proposed measures that ought to be taken. In document MSC 90/10/1, IHO reported on actions taken to help address the operating anomalies identified within ECDIS.
3. The sponsors of the paper were of the view that in order to complete actions needed to address the operating anomalies within ECDIS, clarification needed to be provided in SOLAS regulation V/27, on what constitutes adequate and up-to-date nautical charts and nautical publications.
4. SOLAS V/27 requires that nautical charts and nautical publications must be “adequate” and “up to date”. However, it does not provide any reference or amplification relating to these terms in respect of electronic nautical charts and electronic nautical publications.
5. ECDIS and its operating software, being a safety critical navigational aid, should be kept up to date to the latest international standards as applicable.
6. It is of concern that currently, there is no regulatory requirement for ship operators to update ECDIS systems already in use at sea.
7. The proposed footnotes do not introduce any new requirements or changes to the SOLAS regulations, but seek to ensure that the existing regulations are clear and unambiguous, so that they can be interpreted in a consistent manner.
8. Germany (MSC 90/25/20) supported the proposal and has recommended that similar updates be also made to SOLAS regulations V/15, V/18 and V/19.

9. 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 “Development of explanatory footnotes to SOLAS regulations V/15, V/18, V/19 and V/27”, with a target completion year of 2014.
