



IHO File Nos. AB-4/S-8A/B

CIRCULAR LETTER 54/2017  
02 October 2017

**ADOPTION OF EDITION 1.0.0 OF IHO PUBLICATIONS S-8A AND S-8B -  
STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR CATEGORY "A" AND CATEGORY "B"  
NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHERS**

Reference: IHO CL 45/2017 dated 01 August – *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.*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Circular Letter in the Reference proposed the adoption of editions 1.0.0 of IHO Publications S-8A - *Standards of Competence for Category "A" Nautical Cartographers* and S-8B - *Standards of Competence for Category "B" Nautical Cartographers*, developed by the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) and endorsed by the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC).
2. The Secretariat would like to thank the following 63 Member States that replied to the reference: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam.
3. All Member States, except one, supported the adoption of edition 1.0.0 of S-8A, and all but two supported the adoption of edition 1.0.0 of S-8B. Eight Member States offered comments in addition to their vote. Their comments and the responses from the IBSC and from the Secretariat are provided in the Annex to this letter.
4. When the Reference was issued there were 87 Member States of the IHO with three States suspended. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the IHO as amended, the minimum number of affirmative votes required is 28. As a result, the proposed editions 1.0.0 of IHO Publications S-8A and S-8B have been adopted. The IHO Publication S-8 is superseded and replaced by the two separate sets of Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers, Category "A" (S-8A) and Category "B" (S-8B).
5. Editions 1.0.0 (*English version only*) are available on the IHO website at: [www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) → Standards & Publications → Download → S-8A and S-8B. In addition to Publications S-8A and S-8B, the Download page also contains the companion document *Guidelines for the Implementation of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers*. Templates to help institutions to prepare the cross-reference tables are being developed and will be soon available in the download page.

On behalf of the Secretary-General  
Yours sincerely,

Mustafa IPTES  
Director

Annex: Member States' comments to IHO CL 45/2017 and responses from the IBSC and the Secretariat.

**Distribution:**

- IHO Member States
- IBSC Chair
- CBSC Chair
- Training and Education Institutions recognised by the IBSC

**MEMBER STATES' COMMENTS TO IHO CL 45/2017 AND RESPONSES FROM  
THE FIG/IHO/ICA INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR  
HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS AND NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHERS (IBSC) AND  
FROM THE SECRETARIAT**

**ADOPTION OF THE EDITION 1.0.0 OF IHO PUBLICATIONS S-8A AND S-8B  
STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR CATEGORY "A" AND CATEGORY "B"  
NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHERS**

**CANADA**

Vote for S-8A = YES      Vote for S-8B = YES

Canada would like to acknowledge and thank the IBSC for their efforts in delivering both of these new S-8 editions.

*The IBSC thanks Canada for the support.*

**CHILE**

Vote for S-8A = NO      Vote for S-8B = NO

None of the comments offered as a consequence of CL 57/2016 and CL 6/2017 were taken into account, without any feedback from the IBSC, offering an explanation for such approach. We might have different views on the text but surely several comments were, in our opinion absolutely necessary to take them into account to improve the content of the publications. In this scenario we are not in a position to approve the two publications submitted for voting.

*Comment from the Secretariat: All the comments received by the IHO Secretariat in response to CL 57/2016 and 06/2017 for the process of preparation of the new IHO Publication S-8A and S-8B - Standards of Competence for Category "A" and Category "B" Nautical Cartographers have been referred to and considered by the IBSC and reported by documents IRCC9-07H2 and IRCC9-07H3. Unfortunately, there is no record that the comments provided by Chile in response to CL 6/2017 were received by the Secretariat, using the address cl-lc@iho.int, and thus neither the IBSC nor the Secretariat were aware of them. These comments were later received and forwarded to the IBSC.*

*Comment from the IBSC: The IBSC will consider these comments during IBSC41 as part of the continuous assessment and maintenance of the Standards of Competence.*

**COLOMBIA**

Vote for S-8A = YES      Vote for S-8B = YES

We recommend to update the IHO logo according to CL 18/2017

*Comment from the Secretariat: the IHO logos are updated in the final version of the publications.*

**CROATIA**

Vote for S-8A = YES      Vote for S-8B = YES

Croatia thanks the IBSC for the comments of Croatian proposals (as per HR response to IHO CL 6/2017). Given that the IBSC considers the Croatian proposal is outside the terms of reference of IBSC, Croatia would appreciate the IHO Secretariat taking note of importance of the issue raised and seek ways of addressing the issue to appropriate IHO bodies. Croatia is ready to actively participate in any of the initiatives.

*Comment from the Secretariat: the comments from Croatia were forwarded to the MSDIWG Chair, the IHO body that routinely covers licensing during the meetings. Licensing is also treated generically at the draft New Edition 2.0.0 of the IHO Publication C-17 Spatial Data Infrastructures - ""The Marine Dimension"", Guidance for Hydrographic Offices that was submitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the IHO*

*Council. There is an opportunity for Croatia to participate at the next MSDIWG9 meeting to be held in Brazil (29 January - 2 February 2018).*

#### **DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Vote for S-8A = YES    Vote for S-8B =YES

Newly provided S-8A and S-8B Standards contain rich contents necessary for training of nautical cartographers in Member States. We consider that it will better for Member States to be able to download the training materials via internet. Therefore, we wish IHO to contact with relevant educational institutions for above mentioned actions in accordance with the current trends of increase in remote – training.

*Comment from the IBSC: the IBSC thanks the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the support.*

*Comment from the Secretariat: training material is in general property of the institutions and not provided free of charge. The best way is to contact potential training providers in order to verify the availability of training material.*

#### **FRANCE**

Vote for S-8A = YES    Vote for S-8B =YES

S-8A: The version presented includes all the important comments that SHOM had made in its response to CL 06/17.

S-8B: The version presented includes all the important comments that SHOM had made in its response to CL57/16, excepted one observation concerning computer programming. SHOM continues to consider that there is no need for Category "B" cartographers to know the methods and several programming languages and therefore Item B2.3 could have been lighter.

*Comment from the IBSC: The requirements of B2.3 as described in the corresponding learning outcomes are minimal. Students are not expected to write scripts in a number of programming languages but just to be aware of their basic characteristics and to be able to utilize the one used in their working environment for basic applications like file and format conversion. Nowadays such tasks are quite common in working environments and the cartographers should not be dependent on others to carry out simple tasks.*

#### **ITALY**

Vote for S-8A = YES    Vote for S-8B =YES

Italy suggest to insert reference to ellipsoid in S8-A page 7 Topic B1.1 Coordinate Geometry, because coordinate are not only related to the plane geometry (2D – ellipse), but also are related space geometry (3D – ellipsoid).

*Comment from the IBSC: This item is considered essential subject and as such is covered in E1.*

#### **UNITED KINGDOM**

Vote for S-8A = YES    Vote for S-8B =NO

S-8B: The UKHO have reviewed the content of S-8B. Due to changes in the associated 'Guidelines for the Implementation of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers' from Version 1.1.0. to Version 2.0.0 (March 2017) regarding omission of a minimum course length for courses with Basic subject exemptions for the Category B course, the UK is unable to support the proposed New Edition of the S-8B Standards of Competence for Category "B" Nautical Cartographers.

*Comment from the IBSC: The Guidelines are not part of the Standards and are to be used by educational and training organizations for the preparation of submissions of programmes in hydrographic surveying or nautical charting against the IHO Publications S-5A/B and S-8A/B Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers.*