



# Education Requirements and Difficulties

FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for  
Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC)

Report to IRCC12

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IBSC Chair



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VTC, 6 – 7 October, 2020

IRCC12-06B

# The Board

10 Board members: 4 FIG, 4 IHO, 2 ICA  
(+IHO Secretariat)



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# The Role of the Board



- **Review** syllabi of programmes and individual recognition schemes from education and training institutions
- **Maintain IBSC publications;**
- **Provide guidance** to education and training institutions;
- **Support the IHO** for the establishment of new hydrographic programmes where regional training capacity does not exist;
- **Review** the procedures of submission.



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# Work Program 2019-2020



In addition to the annual meeting, IBSC43, the IBSC has been working on the following tasks :

- Publication of the companion document Frequently Asked Questions to contribute to the Right First Time principle
- Review the IBSC standards and maintain IBSC Publications
- Review of the IBSC42 Conditional Recognition submissions
- on-site visits to provide guidance and assistance to institutions - China and Belgium



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## Published in 2020 (2021)



- Guidelines for the Implementation of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (Ed 2.1.1, March 2020);
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) (Edition 1.0.0, March 2020).

## Problems encountered

- Poor quality of submissions resulting in remedial iterations causing heavy workload throughout the year.
- Low appreciation by institutions of the requirements of the revised Standards.
- Need to pay attention to Guidelines document and FAQs and White Paper.
- Ongoing management for IBSC of increasing workload.
- Continuing stakeholder engagement and outreach – promotion and guidance



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# Challenge of Covid-19:



The impact of COVID-19 on the work of the IBSC and the teaching delivery strategies of the recognized programmes was immediate and disruptive from early 2020.

*The Board's operations are potentially disrupted if ongoing restrictions prevail.*

**A typical year for the IBSC involves :**

- Jan/Feb/March – receive submissions and perform preliminary reviews.
- March/April – conduct IBSC annual meeting of two weeks, bringing together IBSC Members, staff from submitting institutions, local support staff and local hydrographic surveyors and nautical cartographers in a workshopping discussion about the IBSC's work and programme. **This potentially involves gatherings and interactions of around 50 or so people from many countries.**
- Remainder of year taken to finalise all reviews intersessionally.
- November – conduct IBSC workshop to finalise IBSC work for the IBSC meeting and prepare for the next.



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# Challenge of Covid-19:



Understanding that COVID-19 will have an impact in the running of programmes, the IBSC issued the following message in the IHO web page to be available in helping the institutions to adapt to the situation, but at the same time maintain as much as possible the required level of the learning outcomes.

*The IBSC (The Board) acknowledges that these are challenging times due to the COVID-19 pandemic and encourages all institutions to prioritize the well-being of staff and students as they manage their particular circumstances to deal with disruptions to their normal teaching strategies for their recognized programme(s). The Board recognizes that teaching delivery strategies will likely need to be changed as institutions implement essential changes to comply with official directions from authorities. The Board requests that any modified teaching strategies seek to maintain the appropriate level of the applicable Standard and asks that significant changes be referred to the Board for its consideration of the need for guidance or assistance with continuing recognition. This acknowledgement should not be construed as the Board seeking to override national or local official directions.*



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# Challenge of Covid-19:



*Institutions* The Board received letters from several institutions regarding their necessary modified teaching strategy to deal with the impact of the COVID-19. The institutions adapted very quickly and well, developing and implementing remote learning strategies for the theoretical classes and delaying appropriately the delivery of the practical classes for the end of the respective lockdowns with the necessary safety measures implemented.

*IBSC* The potential impacts from COVID-19 on the future programme of the IBSC are:

- November 2020, IBSC internal workshop, as required, to be conducted by VTC.
- Potential impact on the conduct of IBSC44 for Board and Hosts.
- In the event IBSC44 is severely impacted, the conduct of a virtual meeting would have serious consequences for the conduct of the Board's programme for the renewal of recognitions and the consideration of new programmes for recognition.



## The IRCC is invited to:



- a) Note this report;
- b) Acknowledge the work done by the Board in the delivery of the companion document Guidelines for the Implementation of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers Ed. 2.1.1 (May 2020) and the new document Frequently Asked Questions, Ed. 1.0.0 (March 2020).
- c) Encourage Member States and submitting institutions to engage with the IHO Secretariat early in the process of them preparing submissions for programme recognition.
- d) Encourage Member States and submitting institutions to consult the Guidelines, the FAQs and the White Paper (IHR-Nov-2017 – Article: Maintaining the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers).
- e) Agree with the IBSC Proposed Work Plan – Q2 2020 to Q2 2021 (Annex B).
- g) Take any other actions as appropriate.

# Thank You



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