

ENC STANDARDS MAINTENANCE WORKING GROUP (ENCWG)

[A Working Group of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC)]

Distribution: IHO Member States

07 May 2021

Ref: SevenCs ECDIS Kernel EC2007, ENC updates causing ECDIS display issues.

Dear Hydrographer,

I am writing to inform you of an ECDIS display issue that the IHO have been made aware of. In older versions of the SevenCs SDK EC2007 software used to render ENC data in ECDIS there are instances when navigation information does not render as expected. In a certain set of circumstances, isolated dangers either are not displayed or display incorrectly. We currently understand that the issue presents when a depth area (DEPARE), dredged area (DRGARE) or unsurveyed area (UNSARE) is deleted and reinstated via an ENC Update without any of its geometry being modified.

As ENCWG chair I have held a meeting with SevenCs and the IHO Secretariat to discuss the issue. SevenCs have assured us that the ECDIS still alarms and indicates in route planning and monitoring mode and all objects are visible in IMO display mode ALL OTHER. SevenCs internal investigation has resulted in a small number of ENC cells in a database of over 17,000 ENCs that may be impacted by this issue. They have informed the IHO Secretariat that the problem can be fixed by issuing an ENC new edition. The RENCs have been informed and will contact any MS who has affected cells.

Furthermore, the following actions have been agreed with the IHO Secretariat and will be carried out in the coming weeks:

1. An IHO ENC Encoding Bulletin and accompanying IHO Circular Letter will be drafted for IHO MS informing them of the issue and requesting that they cease the practice of deleting and reinserting certain Group 1 ENC features without modification.
2. New ENC encoding guidance will be included in S-57 Appendix B.1, Annex A – *Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC*; and new tests will be added to S-58 – *ENC Validation Checks*, Edition 7 (currently in development) to capture the issue.
3. The RENCs will be asked to monitor the situation to ensure that the Encoding Bulletin is enforced, to the effect that no updates are issued where depth areas are deleted and then re-inserted without modification.

4. 7Cs will submit a paper to the next ENCWG meeting in June outlining the issue and informing production software manufacturers of the problem.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Mellor', followed by a period.

Thomas Mellor
Chairman

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