Paper for Consideration by HSSC12

[Removal of the Term Master/Slave from S-57]

Submitted by:	ENCWG5
Executive Summary:	The intention of this paper is to bring attention to terminology in use within current IHO documents that refer to slavery. Proposal is to remove such outdated terms from existing documents.
Related Documents:	S-57, S-58, S-64
Related Projects:	

Introduction / Background

In order to be more inclusive, the ENCWG is asking for the consideration of revisions to the terminology "Master/Slave" within IHO documentation standards, particularly within S-57 and associated standards such as S-58. This will align with movement within the software industry to update outdated language. This is in response to a paper submitted by US (NOAA) to the recent ENCWG meeting.

While it is understandable, that in many parts of the world this terminology is purely software in nature, the term "Master/Slave" has different connotations in other parts of the world, and in order to align with Decision No.7 of A-2 that adopts the UN Guidelines on gender-inclusive language, this language should be updated.

TC80 has received a proposal to remove the terms "Master/Slave" from the mandatory list in IEC 62288 as stated in SN.1/Circ.243.

The S-101PT Chair has identified a very limited number of references to "Master/Slave" in S-101 documentation (DCEG only) and action has been taken to fully remove this in the working draft. Generally S-101 uses specific named associations like "Structure/Equipment" so has no further need for replacement terminology. Therefore, in S-101 1.1.0 all references will have been removed.

Analysis/Discussion

Note that other international organizations have started taking action as shown in the following press releases/articles:

Broken Metaphor: The Master-Slave Analogy in Technical Literature (Johns Hopkins University Press)
In November 2003, after receiving a discrimination complaint from a county employee, the Los Angeles County Office of Affirmative Action Compliance sent a memo to all its equipment vendors asking that they stop using the words "master" and "slave" in reference to computer hardware and other equipment.
https://muse.jhu.edu/article/215390/summary

GitHub to replace "master" with alternative term to avoid slavery references (ZDNet)
The code-hosting portal is just the latest in a long line of tech companies and open source projects that have expressed support for removing terms that may be offensive to developers in the black community. This includes dropping terms like "master" and "slave" for alternatives like "main/default/primary" and "secondary;" but also terms like "blacklist" and "whitelist" for "allow list" and "deny/exclude list."
https://www.zdnet.com/article/github-to-replace-master-with-alternative-term-to-avoid-slavery-references/

MySQL Terminology Updates (MySQL High Availability)
Anyone using MySQL Replication is familiar with the terms: "master" and "slave". The origins of these words are negative. That is clear. At MySQL, we made the decision to change this terminology. Already, many of us have changed how we refer to these roles in blogposts and presentations — usually using terms like "primary", "secondary", "source", and "replica".
https://mysqlhighavailability.com/mysql-terminology-updates/

GitHub abandons 'master' term to avoid slavery row (BBC News)

Note: FOR REASONS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REQUESTED TO BRING THEIR OWN COPIES OF THE DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING

Twitter and JPMorgan are removing 'master,' 'slave' and 'blacklist' from their code (CNN Business)
https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/03/tech/twitter-jpmorgan-slave-master-coding/index.html

As a leading standards body, the IHO should eliminate the use of anachronistic terms which no longer have a place in today's society.

While the ENCWG understands that S-57 has been frozen for a very long time and does not want to effect change for its own sake, this terminology update can be specified as purely editorial and not trigger any updates to shipboard systems and thus affecting the type approval process. These changes can be achieved as clarifications to existing documents requiring <u>no</u> mandatory updates from data providers, ECDIS manufacturers, type approval bodies and end users.

Conclusions
The IHO, Member States, and industry partners can work together to eliminate outdated terminology that lends to an environment that is not reflective of the IHO and its members. Revision of this term will align with the gender-inclusive language as adopted by the IHO.

Recommendations
Unfreeze S-57 to allow for the sole purpose of removing the terms "Master/Slave" and their replacement by more neutral terms.

Justifica*t*ion and Impacts
Primary IHO documents requiring consideration:
> IHO Transfer Standard S-57 (Edition 3.1.0, November 2000) Main Document – *8 references*
> S-57 Appendix B.1 - ENC Product Specification – *6 references*
> S-57 Appendix B.1, Annex A - Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC - UOC– *27 references*
> S-58- ENC Validation Checks – *47 references*
> S-64 Test Datasets

a. Minimal impact to end users of standards, ENC data producers, ECDIS manufactures or users.
b. Changes would be clarifications of meaning only and result in more modern and neutral terminology replacing outdated language.
c. Fits with the direction of the IHO Council resolution on gender-inclusive language as noted in Assembly Circular Letter No 27, Decision No.7 of A-2, 2020.

Action Required of HSSC
The HSSC is invited to:
> a.   Endorse this consideration
> b.   Comment on suggested replacement terminology
> c.   Unfreeze S-57 and approve the ENCWG to start redline versions for affected documents
> d.   Consider requesting other HSSC working groups to investigate similar activities