

IHO File No. AB-2

**CIRCULAR LETTER 29/2020**  
**17 August 2020**

**FIG/IHO/ICA INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR  
HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS AND NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHERS (IBSC) -  
REVISED AND NEW DOCUMENTS**

References:

- A. FIG/IHO/ICA Guidelines for the Implementation of Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers, Edition 2.1.1
- B. IHO Publications S-5A/B, S-8A/B Standards of Competence for Category A/B Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers
- C. FIG/IHO/ICA Frequently Asked Questions about the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers, Edition 1.0.0

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) completed the revision of Edition 2.1.1 of the Companion document, "*Guidelines for the Implementation of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers*". The document has been updated with clarifications and improved examples to support the preparation of the necessary documents to be submitted to the IBSC for recognition.
2. In addition to the Guidelines, the IBSC completed the development of a new Companion document, "*Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), Edition 1.0.0*". The FAQs contain a compilation of problems, questions and shortcomings observed in the past ten years.
3. The above documents are now available from the IHO website at:  
<https://iho.int/en/standards-and-specifications>
4. The IHO Secretariat invites the Member States to provide comments and suggestions to contribute to the continuous efforts of the IBSC to improve the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers and its Companion documents, namely the Guidelines and the FAQs.

On behalf of the Secretary-General  
Yours sincerely,



Mustafa IPTES  
IHO Director

Copy: Mr Ronald Furness, IBSC Chair