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**CIRCULAR LETTER N° 31
26 July 2022**

**OUTCOME OF THE 9TH SESSION OF THE IMO SUB-COMMITTEE ON NAVIGATION,
COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND RESCUE (NCSR 9) –**

**REVISION OF ECDIS GUIDANCE FOR GOOD PRACTICE AND
REVISION OF ECDIS PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

References:

- A. Doc. HSSC14-07.2A – Report on IMO activities affecting HSSC
- B. HSSC14 List of Decisions and Actions – Decisions and Actions HSSC14/85, /86 and /88

Dear Hydrographer,

1. During the 14th meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC14), the Committee was informed on the outcome and possible impact of the work of the HSSC Drafting Group in preparing a submission on amendments to ECDIS Performance Standards (IMO Resolution MSC.232(82)) that was submitted to the 9th session of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 9) (See References A and B).

2. The NCSR is a subordinate body of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). NCSR9 was held remotely from 21 to 30 June 2022. The Sub-Committee established three Working Groups (Communications, Navigation and Search and Rescue) and instructed them, taking into account comments and decisions made in plenary, to give preliminary consideration to the allocated agenda items and advise the Sub-Committee.

3. With several other Agenda items allocated to it, the Working Group on Navigation also considered the submissions on Revision of ECDIS Guidance for good practice (IMO MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.1), submitted by China and CIRM and amendments to ECDIS Performance Standards (IMO Resolution MSC.232(82)), submitted by IHO, CIRM and INTERTANKO. Dealing with the submission on amendments to ECDIS Performance Standards, it was noted that this was to be completed within one session to include references to IHO Product Specifications S-98, S-100 and S-101 into the current performance standards. The information provided by the delegation of IHO on the urgency to amend the current ECDIS Performance Standards in order to allow for the introduction of the next technical generation of Electronic Navigational Charts (S-101 ENC) was also noted.

4. NCSR9 agreed on a transitional period of three years between 1 January 2026 to 1 January 2029, during which new installations of ECDIS compliant with either the existing IMO Resolution MSC.232(82) standards or the newly introduced S-100 based IMO ECDIS Performance Standards is accepted. The draft amended MSC Resolution on Performance Standards for ECDIS was approved by the Sub-Committee for submission to the Maritime Safety Committee for formal adoption at the next meeting (MSC 106) in November 2022. The approved draft MSC.232(82) is available at <https://iho.int/en/hssc14-2022> > Post Meeting Documents > Proposed Amendments to MSC.232(82).

5. With the expectation that MSC 106 would be in the position to adopt the amended revision of performance standards, replacing the existing standards set out in resolution MSC.232(82) for new ECDIS installations from 1 January 2029, it was agreed that further work limited to future amendments necessary to facilitate the standardized digital exchange of ships' route plans should be based on these new revised performance standards.

6. With regards to the Revision of ECDIS Guidance for good practice (MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.1), some of the obsolete references made to the Data Presentation and Performance Check (DPPC) dataset of IHO in relation to anomalies were deleted and a draft MSC circular on ECDIS Guidance for good practice, to be disseminated as MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.2, was approved by the Sub-Committee for submission to the Maritime Safety Committee for adoption at the next meeting (MSC 106). The approved draft MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.2 is available at <https://iho.int/en/hssc14-2022> > Post Meeting Documents > Proposed Amendments to MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev2.

7. Considering that the adoption of the draft MSC resolution on Performance Standards for ECDIS and draft MSC Circular on ECDIS Guidance for good practice will be proposed by the Sub-committee to MSC 106, Hydrographic Offices are encouraged to engage with their national maritime administrations to propose support for approval.

8. IHO Member States should also note that IHO has now commitments towards IMO and other stakeholders to achieve operational status on the prioritized S-100 Product Specifications in accordance with the Roadmap for the S-100 Implementation Decade and Member States to achieve substantial coverage including robust distribution and update services for S-101 ENC's and related products by 1 January 2026.

On behalf of the Secretary-General
Yours sincerely,



Abri KAMPFER
Director