



IHO File No. S3/8151/S-100

CIRCULAR LETTER 43/2023
13 December 2023

**IHO TIMELINES FOR THE APPROVAL PHASE OF EDITION 2.0.0 OF S-100 BASED
PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS (PHASE 1 / ROUTE MONITORING)**

Dear Hydrographer,

1. At IHO 7th Council (C7/13 and C7/14) it was decided that an informative IHO Circular Letter (CL) should be issued by December 2023 to raise the awareness of IHO Member States on the expected calendar of the approval phase of Edition 2.0.0¹ of S-100-based Product Specifications (Phase 1 / Route Monitoring as a 1st step), in order for IHO Member States to prepare, take provisional measures if appropriate, and ensure that the tight deadlines for their completion and approval in 2024 can be met.
2. The 8th meeting of the S-100WG in November 2023 gave IHO Member States, along with industry experts, an opportunity to consider the timeline for operational implementation of Phase 1 product specifications in order to meet the goals specified in the Roadmap for the S-100 Implementation Decade.
3. The S-100WG decided that, in order to correct the digital signature algorithm and amend key lengths, a new Edition 5.2.0 of S-100 is necessary before the Phase 1 Product Specifications in their Edition 2.0.0 can be finalized. In order to accomplish this, the HSSC intends to issue an HSSC Letter **by the end of January 2024** with a **mid-March endorsement deadline for HSSC Members**. Following this endorsement, an IHO CL will be issued with an **IHO Member States response deadline at the end of May 2024**.
4. Following the **expected publication of the adoption of S-100 5.2.0 in mid June 2024**, WGs endorsement of Phase 1 Product Specifications can begin. **WGs endorsement** of Phase 1 Specifications **must be concluded by mid-August 2024** but may be done earlier. Phase 1 Product Specifications will then be issued for **HSSC MS endorsement by mid-October 2024**.
5. An IHO Circular Letter for **IHO Member States approval** for all Phase 1 Product Specifications will be **issued in late October 2024** and **with a due date in December 2024**.
6. It should be noted that, in consultation with the Chair of IEC/TC80, S-164 (IHO test datasets for S-100 ECDIS) will not be finalized as part of the initial package of Product Specifications as IEC would prefer for S-164 to remain in Edition 1.x.x as they work on the new Edition of the IEC ECDIS test standard 61174. S-164 Edition 2.0.0 will be presented to HSSC-17 in 2025 for endorsement and then IHO MS approval.

¹ The operational edition of S-102 will be version 3.0.0

7. In summary, the Product Specification timeline for Member State approval is expected to be as follows:

- March 2024 – IHO CL for S-100 Edition 5.2.0 issued for MS approval
- **May 2024 – IHO MS responses for S-100 Edition 5.2.0 due**
- October 2024 – IHO CL for all Phase 1 (2.0.0) Product Specifications issued for MS approval
- **December 2024 – MS responses for Phase 1 (2.0.0) Product Specifications due**

8. Member States, in particular those not directly involved in the activities of Working Groups and Committees, are kindly reminded that, unless Member State Circular Letter votes are issued in accordance with the timeline presented, the goals outlined in the Roadmap for the S-100 Implementation Decade will not be met. We must follow the deadlines presented in this schedule in order to meet the IMO requirements with regard to the implementation of S-100 ECDIS (Decisions A3/07, A3/13 and IHO Resolution 1/2023 – *S-100 Implementation* refer)

On behalf of the Secretary-General
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Nyberg', is centered below the text 'Yours sincerely,'.

John NYBERG
Director