

**THIS CIRCULAR LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE**

**IHO File No S3/8151/S-100**

**CIRCULAR LETTER 07/2025**  
**03 February 2025**

**S-100-BASED PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS**

**PHASE 1 – S-124 Navigational Warnings, S-128 Catalogue of Nautical Products**

**CALL FOR APPROVAL**

**and**

**S-158:101 EDITION 1.0.0 Electronic Navigational Chart Validation Checks**

**PUBLICATION NOTICE**

References:

- A. IHO CL 27/2024Rev1 – Adoption of Edition 5.2.0 of IHO Publication S-100 – IHO Universal Hydrographic Model.
- B. IHO CL 43/2023 - IHO Timelines for the Approval Phase of Edition 2.0.0 of S-100 based product specifications (Phase 1 / Route Monitoring).
- C. HSSC CL 03/2024 – Call for HSSC Endorsement of S-100 Based Product Specifications Phase 1 - S-124, S-128 and S-158:101
- D. IHO Resolution 2/2007 - Procedures for making changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The recent adoption of initial Phase 1 S-100 Product Specifications in June 2024 (Reference A) demonstrated that IHO is a trusted organization that delivers on time as per Reference B. Thanks to the significant work of the concerned HSSC bodies and the IHO Secretariat, these Operational Editions are now available to our community through the [IHO Standards and Specifications webpage](#).
2. Meanwhile, the HSSC endorsement process of the remaining S-100 Phase 1 Operational Edition 2.0.0 of Product Specifications *S-124 Navigational Warnings* and *S-128 Catalogue of Nautical Products*; and the approval process for the initial implementation and testing Edition 1.0.0 of Standard Publication *S-158:101 Electronic Navigational Chart Validation Checks*, was initiated with Reference C.
3. The HSSC Chair/IHO Secretariat thanks the following twenty-five HSSC Members who responded to Reference C: Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

4. All twenty-five Member States endorsed the proposed S-124 Product Specification, three of them submitting comments in addition to their vote. Twenty-four Member States supported the proposed S-128 Product Specification, three of them providing comments with their response. The proposed S-158:101 Standard Publication was approved by twenty-four Member States, with three of them submitting comments in addition to their vote. One Member State only provided endorsement to the S-128 Product Specification Edition in its response.
5. All comments received are provided in Annex A to this Circular Letter, with responses from the relevant Working Group and Project Team Chairs, the HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat.
6. Noting the excellent progress made by the concerned HSSC bodies to prepare the S-124 and S-128 draft Operational Editions, which now include amendments requested during the endorsement phase by the HSSC as adjudicated in Annex A, the consolidated draft Product Specifications have been made available for approval in the IHO Geospatial Information (GI) Registry > Test Bed > [Product Specifications](#) repository (S-124 and S-128). A link to the Product Specifications for approval has also been placed on the IHO website > Publications > [Draft Publications](#) > Draft Publications awaiting approval by Member States. Member States are now invited, in accordance with Reference D, to approve the Operational Editions of S-100 based Product Specifications (Phase 1 / Route Monitoring) **no later than 21 March 2025** using any of the following methods:
  - the IHO Online Form accessible through the following link (**recommended**) :  
[https://IHO.formstack.com/forms/cl07\\_25](https://IHO.formstack.com/forms/cl07_25)
  - the IHO Voting Form (see Annex B), to be sent back by email ([cl-lc@iho.int](mailto:cl-lc@iho.int)),
7. Standard Publication S-158:101 Edition 1.0.0 has been updated to include amendments requested during the approval phase by the HSSC as adjudicated in Annex A; and the initial Edition 1.0.0 of S-158:101 for implementation and testing is available on the IHO website > Publications > [Standards and Specifications](#), in accordance with Reference D.

On behalf of the Secretary-General

Yours sincerely,



Dr John NYBERG  
Director

Annex:

- A. HSSC Members' responses to HSSC CL 02/2024 and comments from the WG/PT Chair/HSSC Chair and Secretariat (in English only)
- B. Voting Form

**HSSC MEMBERS' RESPONSES TO HSSC CL 02/2024 AND COMMENTS  
FROM THE WORKING GROUP and PROJECT TEAM CHAIRS, HSSC CHAIR / SECRETARIAT**

<b>S-124, Ed. 2.0.0</b>	<b>Operational Product Specification</b>
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**SPAIN** (Vote for endorsement = YES)

Spain Appreciates and recognizes the remarkable efforts of the working groups and project teams.

Comments by the S-124 PT Chair and HSSC Chair/Secretariat:

*The S-124 PT Chair/HSSC Chair/Secretariat thank Spain for their comment.*

**TÜRKIYE** (Vote for endorsement = YES)

First of all, we would like to thank IHO and Member States that put effort to prepare those documents. We have some comments/remarks regarding the proposed document. Türkiye approves the draft proposed Edition 2.0.0 of S-124 with reservations shown below; THE "CYPRUS" MENTIONED IN ANNEX A (DATA CLASSIFICATION AND ENCODING GUIDE) IS NOT THE ORIGINAL PARTNERSHIP STATE ESTABLISHED IN 1960. THEREFORE, TÜRKIYE DECLARES THAT THE TERM OF "CYPRUS" NEITHER AMOUNT TO ANY FORM OF RECOGNITION OF THE GREEK CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION NOR PREJUDICE TÜRKIYE'S RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS EMANATING FROM THE TREATY OF GUARANTEE AND THE TREATY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF 1960. THE EFFORTS TO LEGITIMIZE ILLEGAL CLAIMS OF THE GREEK CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION ARE NULL AND NEITHER WAS NOR WILL BE ACCEPTED BY TÜRKIYE.

Comments by the S-124 PT Chair and HSSC Chair/Secretariat:

*The S-124 PT Chair/HSSC Chair/Secretariat thank Türkiye for their comment.*

*The S-124 Product Specification and annexes is only meant to provide the necessary technical background to support the S-100 Production. It has no political significance whatsoever.*

*After discussion within the S-124 PT and HSSC Chair Groups and the IHO Secretariat, it has been determined that no change will be applied for S-124 Edition 2.0.0.*

**UNITED KINGDOM** (Vote for endorsement = YES)

Thanks to all those involved for their hard work.

Comments by the S-124 PT Chair and HSSC Chair/Secretariat:

*The S-124 PT Chair/HSSC Chair/Secretariat thank the United Kingdom for their comments.*

**GERMANY** (Vote for endorsement = YES)

This comment does not affect the Edition 2.0.0

The next version of S-128 should consider following observation:

S-128: Mandatory geometry

Valid S-128 datasets can be produced even when geo-features lack geometries, as the inclusion of geometries is not explicitly required by the current Product Specification. However, geometry should be mandatory, as one of the primary purposes of S-128 is to support port state control - specifically, verifying whether all required Nautical Publications are available on a vessel at its current position.

To address this issue, it is proposed that geometry be made mandatory for all geo-feature types. The following changes are recommended for inclusion in the next version of S-128:

- *S-128 Product Specification\_Ed 2.0.0.pdf - Page 10,*

Change

**geometry: GM\_Surface [0..\*]**

in

**geometry: GM\_Surface [1..\*]** (see below)

- *S-128.2.0.0 XSD - Line 3098, 3160 and 3203,*

Change

**<xs:element name="geometry" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded">**

in

**<xs:element name="geometry" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="unbounded">**

*Comments by the NIPWG Chair and HSSC Chair/Secretariat:*

*The NIPWG Chair/HSSC Chair/Secretariat thank Germany for their comments.*

*This proposed modifications will be considered in the next edition of the S-128 Product Specification.*

**PORTUGAL** (Vote for endorsement = YES)

Since paragraph 6. of the publication is dedicated to data quality, it would be convenient to use an ISO as a reference. Comment/Suggestion to be included:

- Item References (paragraph 1.2) Include mention to ISO 19157-1:2023 - Geographic Information - Data Quality

Comments by the NIPWG Chair and HSSC Chair/Secretariat:

*The NIPWG Chair/HSSC Chair/Secretariat thank Portugal for their comment.*

*A reference to ISO 19157:2013 Geographic Information – Data Quality will be added to section 1.2 of the Product Specification Main document. Similar references are used in other IHO S-100 Product Specifications.*

**AUSTRALIA** (Vote for endorsement = YES)

## ENC Validation Checks\_Cover

## 1.3.1 Normative references

- These references will need to be updated to reflect the published version of the documents in order to remove the ??? references in the document names.

## 1.4.1 Terms and definitions

- Optimum Display Scale - Recommend changing the first line to reflect what is written in the DCEG Replace 'the maximum (largest) scale with which the data is intended to be displayed [S-101]' with 'the intended viewing scale for the data'.

Comments by the S-101PT Chair and HSSC Chair/Secretariat:

*The S-101PT Chair and HSSC Chair/Secretariat thank Australia for their comment.*

*The reason for the question marks in the references is that S-158:101 will be published before S-158:100 and therefore no publication date can be given at this time. This will be updated in future versions of S-158:101. For this version, ??? will be replaced by TBD.*

*The definition of optimum display scale used in S-158:101 is the same as that used in the S-101 main document (clause 1.3.1). No change will be applied for S-158:101 Edition 1.0.0.*

**BRAZIL** (Vote for endorsement = YES)

On Item "1.3.1 NORMATIVE REFERENCES" we propose to add "S-58 (ENC VALIDATION CHECKS)" as a reference.

Comments by the S-101PT Chair and HSSC Chair/Secretariat:

*The S-101PT Chair and HSSC Chair/Secretariat thank Brazil for their comment.*

*S-58 will be added as an informative reference, as S-58 is not normative over S-158:101.*

**SPAIN** (Vote for endorsement = YES)

Spain Appreciates and recognizes the remarkable efforts of the working groups and project teams.

Comments by the S-101PT Chair and HSSC Chair/Secretariat:

*The S-101PT Chair and HSSC Chair/Secretariat thank Spain for their comment.*

**CALL FOR APPROVAL OF S-100-BASED PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS  
PHASE 1 – S-124 AND S-128**

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**VOTING FORM**

to be returned to the IHO Secretariat **no later than 21 March 2025**

E-mail: [cl-lc@iho.int](mailto:cl-lc@iho.int)

**Member  
State:**

**Contact:**

**E-mail:**

All proposed draft Editions are available at: <https://iho.int/en/draft-publications>.

**1- Do you approve the draft proposed Edition 2.0.0 of S-124?**

YES

NO

Please provide any comments in the section below.

**2- Do you approve the draft proposed Edition 2.0.0 of S-128?**

YES

NO

Please provide any comments in the section below.