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CIRCULAR LETTER 27/2025
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**IBSC IMPLEMENTATION OF SUBJECT RECOGNITION OF THE S-5A AND S-5B STANDARDS -
NEW GUIDELINES AND FAQ'S ISSUED**

Reference: IRCC17 List of Actions, Decisions and Recommendations – Decision IRCC17/066 and Action IRCC17/067.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. With the above reference, the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) took note that the International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) implemented the recognition of individual Subjects forming the syllabi of the IHO S-5A and IHO S-5B Standards versions in force, as alternative to the traditional recognition of full programmes taught as courses. This enhancement aims to widen the flexibility in shaping high-quality IBSC recognized hydrographic training courses.
2. To provide guidance on the submission for Subject recognition, the IBSC has issued the following updated companion documents available on the IHO website (<https://iho.int/en/standards-and-specifications>):
 - *Guidelines for the Implementation of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers*, Version 3.0.0, dated April 2025.
 - *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)*, Edition 1.0.3, dated June 2025.
3. Member States and relevant institutions are encouraged to consider how the new recognition mechanism may be beneficial to their national or regional training strategies.
4. The IHO Secretariat wishes to express its appreciation to the IBSC for this effort in advancing hydrographic education.

On behalf of the Secretary-General
Yours sincerely,



Luigi SINAPI
Director