

IHO File No. S1/1001

CIRCULAR LETTER 25/2026
22 May 2026

ADOPTION OF GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED WEND-100 PRINCIPLES

References:

- A. IHO Resolution 2/2007 - Procedures for making changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications.
- B. IHO CL 14/2026 dated 04 March 2026 – Call for the approval.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. In accordance with reference A, the updated guidelines for implementing the revised WEND-100 principles were formally endorsed by the Council in October 2025. Following this endorsement, the guidelines were distributed to all Member States for their consideration and approval, as outlined in the Circular Letter cited in document B.
2. The IHO Secretariat thanks the thirty-eight Member States who responded to Reference B: Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mauritius, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America.
3. All thirty-eight Member States supported the adoption of the proposed version. Four Member States submitted comments in addition to their vote. All comments received are provided in Annex A to this Circular Letter with responses from the WENDWG Chair and IHO Secretariat.
4. When the Reference was issued, there were 104 Member States of the IHO with two States suspended. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the IHO as amended, the minimum number of affirmative votes required is 34. As a result, the abovementioned proposed version has been adopted and is now available (English versions only) on the [WENDWG section of the IHO Portal](#).
5. The IHO Secretariat and the WENDWG Chair would like to congratulate and thank all those involved in the enhancement of these implementation guidelines.

On behalf of the Secretary-General
Yours sincerely,



Luigi SINAPI
Director

Annex A: Responses to Member States' comments to IHO CL 14/2026 from the WENDWG Chair and IHO Secretariat (in English only),

**MEMBER STATES' RESPONSES TO IHO CL 14/2026 AND COMMENTS
FROM THE WORKING GROUP and PROJECT TEAM CHAIRS, IHO SECRETARIAT**

REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED WEND-100 PRINCIPLES

CHINA (Vote for adoption = YES)

3.6 However, at small S-101 ENC scales for oceanic use (scale that corresponds roughly to $\leq 1:350.000$) overlapping or concurrent data for S-111 products do not necessarily impede safe navigation in ECDIS. Member States will authorize the overlaps at small scales on a regional basis through Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs). In this case, the end user has the flexibility to choose between the various oceanographic S-111 products that may exist for voyage optimization.

It is proposed to revise the above section 3.6 as follows:

3.6 However, at small S-101 ENC scales for oceanic use (scale that corresponds roughly to $\leq 1:350.000$) overlapping or concurrent data for S-111 products do not necessarily impede safe navigation in ECDIS. Overlapping datasets from neighboring Member States may not be identical. In this case, the end user has the flexibility to choose between the various oceanographic S-111 products that may exist for voyage optimization. Justification: Since Member States produce S-100 products in accordance with their own national schemes, the existence of overlapping areas does not require authorization by RHCs.

Comments by the WENDWG Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The WENDWG Chair and IHO Secretariat thank China for their comments.

Noting that the proposed revision of section 3.6 may also have effects on the WEND-100 principles sections 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6, the text as provided to the IHO Member States proposal will remain.

However, China's rephrasing proposal will be considered in the drafting process of a subsequent version of the Implementation Guidelines and during the next revision process of the WEND-100 principles.

INDIA (Vote for adoption = YES)

India Support Guidelines on Implementation of the revised WEND 100 Principles.

Comments by the WENDWG Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The WENDWG Chair and IHO Secretariat thank India for their comments.

INDONESIA (Vote for adoption = YES)

Indonesia supports and approves the revised guidelines for the implementation of the WEND-100 Principles. We believe these guidelines will support the consistent implementation of S-100 products globally.

Comments by the WENDWG Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The WENDWG Chair and IHO Secretariat thank Indonesia for their comments and take note of their remark.

MALAYSIA (Vote for adoption = YES)

Malaysia supports the continued implementation of the WEND-100 Principles, recognizing their importance in ensuring consistent and high-quality S-100 products for safe navigation under the International Hydrographic Organization framework. Malaysia notes that WEND-100 expands the scope of hydrography towards the S-100 ecosystem, including dynamic data services such as S-104 and S-111. In this regard, Malaysia supports further enhancements to WEND-100. Malaysia also emphasizes the need to strengthen implementation readiness, particularly through capacity-building initiatives and a coordinated, phased approach at the national level, including closer collaboration with relevant agencies to support effective S-100 implementation.

Comments by the WENDWG Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The WENDWG Chair and IHO Secretariat thank Malaysia for their comments and take note of their recommendation.