

IHO File No. S3/8151/S-100

CIRCULAR LETTER 49/2026 Rev 1 22 September 2026
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ADOPTION OF IHO PUBLICATIONS

S-100-BASED STANDARDS PHASE 2 PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

S-122 Ed 2.0.0 - Marine Protected Areas, S-123 Ed 2.0.0 - Marine Radio Services, S-127 Ed 2.0.0 - Marine Traffic Management, S-131 Ed 2.0.0 - Marine Harbour Infrastructure

References:

- A. IHO Resolution 2/2007 - *Procedures for making changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications.*
- B. IHO CL 28/2026 dated 03 June 2026 – *S-100-BASED STANDARDS PHASE 2 – S-122, S-123, S-127, S-131 - Call for approval.*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. In accordance with reference A, the adoption of several operational Editions of S-100 Based Product Specifications - endorsed by HSSC at its 18th meeting- were proposed through the Circular Letters in Reference B.
2. The IHO Secretariat thanks the forty-seven Member States who responded to Reference B: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America and Venezuela.
3. All forty-seven Member States supported the adoption of all proposed Editions. Respectively Five 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 relevant Working Group, the HSSC 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 thirty-six (36). As a result, the abovementioned proposed Editions have been adopted and will be made available (English versions only) by the 10th October 2026, on the IHO GI Registry > GI Registers > [Product Specification](#) once all catalogues have been updated, checked and digitally signed. A link to the Product Specifications will also be placed on the IHO website > Publications > [Standards and Specifications](#).

5. The IHO Secretariat and the HSSC Chair would like to congratulate the NIPWG Chair Team and thank all those who were involved in the development of these PHASE 2 Products specifications.

On behalf of the Secretary-General

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Nyberg', written in a cursive style.

John NYBERG

Director

Annex:

- A. Responses to Member States' comments to IHO CL 28/2026 from the Nautical Information Provision Working Group, the HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat (in English only).

**MEMBER STATES' RESPONSES TO IHO CL 28/2026 AND COMMENTS
FROM THE NIPWG CHAIR, the HSSC CHAIR and IHO SECRETARIAT**

S-122-Marine Protected Areas, Ed. 2.0.0	PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS
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CANADA (Vote for adoption = YES)

Please see some editorial comments from Canada. As well as one more substantive comment on the data type of attributes that are holding links to files, which should be adjusted now, as adjusting this later will be more difficult. Since S-101 2.1.0 is going through the HSSC endorsement process now, it is a good opportunity to apply this change to most of the affected product specifications prior to most implementation having been completed. Afterall, S-100 is the framework underpinning this work.

Editorial:

- Regulations, Restrictions, Recommendations, NauticalInformation, Authority, ContactDetails, ServiceHours, NonStandardWorkingDay, Applicability, SpatialQuality information types are labeled as abstract type in the S-122 DCEG, while in the product specification, e.g. Figure 4-6, these are shown as concrete classes (non-italic names). A similar discrepancy is seen in S-127 DCEG and S-131 DCEG.
- In 4.2.1.7 of the S-122 Product Specification, a reference is made to Figure 4-10, but from the text it seems this reference should be for Figure 4-11. Also, the paragraph above Figure 4-12 refers to Figure 4-11, but reading the text it seems that this should be referring to Figure 4-12.
- S-123 Product Specification title page should be updated to the latest IHO standards.
- The content indexes of S-123 Product Specification and DCEG are clearer than the content indexes of S-122, S-127 and S-131, Canada recommends the same style be applied to all.

Substantive comment:

- Attributes like pictorialRepresentation used in the complex attribute graphic and fileReference used in the complex attribute information are of text type and used to hold paths/links to files. S-100 gives in Part 1-4.6 a strong recommendation to use URI as data types for these types of file references. Implementing this recommendation ensures that the feature catalogues are more machine readable and helps implementors of ECDIS/ECS and shore-based systems achieve correct system behaviour without having to examine all feature catalogues for text attributes with operational functionality. These two attributes are found in the feature catalogues of S-101, S-122, S-123, S-127, S-131, and possibly others.

Comments by the NIPWG Chair, the HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The NIPWG Chair, HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat thank Canada for their comments.

The suggested changes were considered in the final versions made available on the IHO website. In regard to the substantive comment from Canada, it was noted that the decision has been taken by the

S-101 Project Team for S-101 Edition 2.1.0 to retain the attribute type for attributes fileReference and pictorialRepresentation as type text, as the associated referenced files are included in the Exchange Set and as such there is no requirement to provide a link to an external source.

INDONESIA (Vote for adoption = YES)

We fully support the adoption of draft Edition 2.0.0 for S-122.

Comments by the NIPWG Chair, the HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The NIPWG Chair, HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat thank Indonesia for their comments.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) (Vote for adoption = YES)

It is recommended that, in addition to the technical specifications provided for each product, a dedicated Implementation Guide be developed and published for producers. Such a guide should provide practical examples, explanatory notes, and implementation recommendations to facilitate the effective and consistent application of the product standards. The availability of this guidance would promote a common understanding of the requirements and support the harmonized implementation of these products across Member States.

Comments by the NIPWG Chair, the HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The NIPWG Chair, HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat thank Iran for their comments and take note of their remark.

OMAN (Vote for adoption = YES)

Thanks to the NIPWG for their work in developing the S-100 standards.

Regarding the non-overlap requirement for S-122, it remains unclear and may need more clarification, with consideration of coordinating between multiple sources and the difference of the areas of prohibited or restricted activity within a specific partially overlapping area. Particularly for areas that may be designated as both a restricted area and an MPA, where the boundaries are not coincident, and restrictions and action categories are also different, managed by two different authorities.

Comments by the NIPWG Chair, the HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The NIPWG Chair, HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat thank Oman for their comments and take note of their remark.

S-123-Marine Radio Services, Ed. 2.0.0	PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS
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INDONESIA (Vote for adoption = YES)

The proposed Edition 2.0.0 of S-123 is well-structured and meets all necessary requirements.

Comments by the NIPWG Chair, the HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The NIPWG Chair, HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat thank Indonesia for their comments.

MALAYSIA (Vote for adoption = YES)

Malaysia supports the draft of S-123 Product Specification, as its standardized modelling of radio frequencies, navigational warning schedules, and coastal radio station information meets operational and regulatory requirements.

Comments by the NIPWG Chair, the HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The NIPWG Chair, HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat thank Malaysia for their comments.

S-127-Marine Traffic Management, Ed. 2.0.0	PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS
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INDONESIA (Vote for adoption = YES)

We agree with the proposed updates and changes introduced in Edition 2.0.0 of S-127.

Comments by the NIPWG Chair, the HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The NIPWG Chair, HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat thank Indonesia for their comments.

MALAYSIA (Vote for adoption = YES)

MY support the draft of S-127 Marine Traffic Management Product specification Edition 2.0.0.

The specification provides a standardized framework for the encoding and exchange of Marine Traffic Management information, including Vessel Traffic Services (VTS), pilotage, routing measures and ship reporting systems, as an S-100 compliant overlay product supporting ECDIS and S-100 based marine navigation systems. We note that the modelling of VTS Service Areas, Radio Calling-In Points, Signal Stations and Radar Coverage aligns well with operational requirements and complements communication services in accordance with relevant IMO/SOLAS provisions. Based on feedback from the competent authority, we recommend that future editions include additional implementation guidance on VTS operational modelling, information categorisation, interoperability with national VTS systems and practical encoding examples to facilitate consistent implementation among Member States.

Comments by the NIPWG Chair, the HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The NIPWG Chair, HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat thank Malaysia for their comments and take note of their recommendation.

S-131-Marine Harbour Infrastructure, Ed. 2.0.0	PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS
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INDONESIA (Vote for adoption = YES)

We have reviewed draft Edition 2.0.0 of S-131 and endorse its implementation.

Comments by the NIPWG Chair, the HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The NIPWG Chair, HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat thank Indonesia for their comments.

MALAYSIA (Vote for adoption = YES)

Malaysia approves S-131. The Edition 2.0.0 provides a standardized framework for Marine Harbour Infrastructure information, supports S-100 interoperability, enhances berth-to-berth navigation and promotes consistent exchange and portrayal of harbour data.

Comments by the NIPWG Chair, the HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The NIPWG Chair, HSSC Chair and IHO Secretariat thank Malaysia for their comments.