

13th CHRIS MEETING
17-19 September 2001, Athens, Greece



NECSA

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September 13, 2001

Rear Admiral Neal Guy
Director, International Hydrographic Bureau
Monaco

Dear Admiral Guy,

We are sorry that circumstances prevent us from being present at the forthcoming CHRIS meeting and we hope that the following statement will advise the members of the committee as to the status of the ISO ECS database standard.

As of now, the ISO Working Group has completed the Committee Draft (CD) of ISO 19379 – the standard for the Contents, Quality and Updating of the ECS database. The CD is now being circulated among the nations that are P-members of TC 8 SC 6 of ISO. These include Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Holland, Russia, China, Denmark, South Korea and the United States. The CD is being circulated to obtain comments from these countries as to the contents of the draft standard. Once received, these comments will be evaluated and considered for inclusion at the next meeting of the Working Group.

We are working towards completion of the following schedule:

?? Draft International Standard:	April 30, 2002
?? Final Draft International Standard:	January 20, 2003
?? International Standard:	August 31, 2003

As of this time we are on schedule to meet those dates.

Our goal as we prepare this standard is to achieve a very high level of navigational safety for those who use ECS on their vessels. We are approaching this objective by requiring that the contents of the database be complete, that the accuracy and quality standards are at a high level, and that the database be continuously updated. The standard will include a description of those items that must be tested, and the tests to be performed in order to demonstrate compliance. Criteria for rejection will also be included.

We would like to reiterate that we are not developing this standard to compete or conflict with the use of ECDIS. Rather, we expect that there will be widespread use of ECS by non-SOLAS vessels, or by vessels that use ECS where there is no carriage requirement for ECDIS. In those cases, the existence of a standard of quality, content and updating of the database is clearly valuable.

We expect that the administrations of many nations will wish to cite this standard in the event that they require or permit the use of ECS – as, for example, in the case of using the ECS display for AIS purposes. Many HO's may be consulted by these administrations as to their opinion of the ISO standard, and for this reason we encourage the members of CHRIS to become familiar with the document. (A copy of the Committee Draft is also attached for this purpose).

We trust that this brief statement will be of interest to those present at the meeting. We are ready to answer any questions, or provide additional information upon the request of any of your members.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mortimer Rogoff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mortimer Rogoff, President
Convenor of ISO 19379

Encl. ISO 19379 Committee Draft