

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
BUREAU

4, quai Antoine 1er
B.P. 445
MC 98011 MONACO CEDEX
PRINCIPAUTE DE MONACO



BUREAU HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONAL

Tel : +377.93.10.81.00
Fax : +377.93.10.81.40
e-mail : info@ihb.mc
web : www.iho.int

HSSC1-03C

Relationship Between ISO and IHO Geospatial Standards

Mr. K. Brannon
ISO Central Secretariat
1, ch. de la Voie-Creuse,
Case postale 56
CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

IHB Files: S1/5058; S3/8040

26 June 2009

References:

- A. IHO letter S1/5058 dated 21 November 2007
- B. Telephone conversation Brannon/Ward –December 2008

Dear Mr Brannon,

In 2007 I wrote to you (Reference A) regarding the IHO's use of the ISO 19100 series of geographic standards in relation to the development of IHO S-100 – the geospatial standard for hydrographic information. S-100 is now undergoing final stakeholder review before approval as an active standard by IHO Member States.

In particular, the IHO sought information on any ISO copyright restrictions that might apply in using ISO standards as a normative reference in S-100 and in including limited extracts of ISO standards in the S-100 documentation. During our follow-up conversation in December 2008 (Reference B) you indicated that you would like further information regarding the level of use of the ISO standards in the S-100 documentation.

I am now able to inform you that the extracts from the relevant ISO 19100 series documents form much less than 10% of the total documentation and are so selective and fragmented that it would be impossible for a reader to use S-100 as a substitute for any of the ISO 19100 series of publications. On the contrary, a reader of S-100 is actually more likely to need to refer to 19100 series documents as a result. Accordingly, I would appreciate your confirmation that there are no copyright implications in our use of the various ISO references in this way.

This leads me to return to a more general question that my predecessor, Admiral Barbor, had raised with you previously regarding how best to formalise the status of the IHO in relation to ISO. We note that there are four international organizations that have been recognized by the ISO Council as international standardizing bodies. These are: CIE (International Commission on Illumination), IIW (International Institute of Welding), IULTCS (International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists), and WMO (World Meteorological Organization). The

IHO is the long-standing and unquestioned international standardizing body for hydrographic and nautical charting whose standards are being used universally. Recognition of IHO by ISO as the relevant international standardizing body might be the way forward to define the relationship between the IHO and ISO. We therefore seek information on the procedures required for IHO to be recognized by ISO in this capacity.

In summary, we look forward to your confirmation that the IHO's use of the ISO 19100 series of standards has no copyright implications and also further information on recognition of IHO by ISO as the international standardizing body for hydrography and nautical charting.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert WARD

Director, IHB