

Status of the IMO Draft Guidelines for the harmonized display of navigation information received via communications equipment

Background

MSC 95 considered document MSC 95/19/8, annex 5, proposing the development of *Guidelines for the harmonized display of navigation information received via communications equipment*, and document MSC 95/19/14, commenting on the proposal, and agreed to include, in the 2016-2017 biennial agenda of the NCSR Sub-Committee and the provisional agenda for NCSR 3, an output on "Guidelines for the harmonized display of navigation information received via communications equipment", with a target completion year of 2017.

Progress

At NCSR 3 the Sub-Committee invited Norway to coordinate a joint proposal from interested Member Governments and international organizations to NCSR 4 containing draft Guidelines. During this work a number of issues were identified which are highlighted below:

- The amount of information available from communications equipment in e-navigation far exceeds the amount of display space on existing equipment such as Radar and ECDIS;
- Unless an INS is fitted it would be advisable to add a new display to support this information;
- There are already a number of IMO and industry standards dealing with the nature of bridge displays, including text size, colour etc.;
- Some essential information such as MSI should be displayed on existing equipment but clearly some information which is not essential to the immediate navigation of the ship should be displayed elsewhere in order to prevent obscuration of the primary task of the display such as Radar or ECDIS

The group of interested bodies agreed on a number of issues:

- Navigation data received by communication systems should be displayed in a timely, unambiguous and harmonized manner. If applicable the information should be displayed based on the S-100 series portrayal or based on SN Circ.243 as appropriate.
- Where there are no appropriate symbols defined for portrayal in the relevant S-100 standard, additional new symbols should be added to SN Circ.243.
- Navigation related information should be displayed in such a manner that information overload on the display is prevented. Selectable functions should be included to allow displaying only the required information necessary for safe navigation.
- The increasing amount of data received from communications equipment (MSPs) may require the introduction of an additional display for this function especially if an INS is not installed.
- Filtering and routing of the information - Data received on-board should be automatically categorized and prioritized in accordance with urgency and sea area capability

It was clear during the work that a number of these issues would also affect the task at NCSR on “Additional modules to the Revised Performance Standards for Integrated Navigation Systems (INS) relating to the harmonization of bridge design and display of information” and that coordination was required with those drafting these changes to the INS standards

Considering the above information and the need to coordinate with other e-navigation projects including the future project on “S” mode and the result of future work on MSP guidelines, it was considered that the work should continue into the next biennium.