



TRANSFER STANDARD MAINTENANCE & APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP (TSMADWG)

[A Working Group of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC)]

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Secretary: Tony PHARAOH

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To: TSMAD Members

Date 25 February 2009

Subject: S-100 Editing Committee Adjudication Results

Dear All,

I am writing to you with respect to the following actions given to the TSMAD as a result of discussions at CHRIS20.

6.1	S-57 temporal attribution	20/13	20/13 TSMAD to urgently consider by correspondence revisions to S-57 temporal attribution and "master / slave" relationships, taking into account CHRIS20-WP1.	In progress
6.6	CATZOC definitions	20/25	IHB and Chair TSMAD to bring amended CATZOC definitions into force through a supplement to S-57. (See also Action 20/14)	
6.1	S-57 temporal attribution & CATZOC	20/14	As soon as practicable and subject to no adverse findings from TSMAD, volunteer MS's may wish to submit a late proposal to 4EIHC seeking approval for an amending Supplement to S-57 (S-57 3.1.2) containing revisions to S-57 temporal attribution and "master/slave" relationships which would also include amendments to CATZOC parameters and definitions (see Action 20/25)	

With the introduction of new tests for implementing temporal attributes (date start, period start etc.) in IEC 61174, it is anticipated that the encoding of these attributes will increase significantly. Unfortunately this has highlighted a previously known issue concerning certain feature object classes which do not permit the use of temporal attributes. These are specifically FOGSIG (fog signal), RADSTA (radar station), RETRFL (retro-reflector), RTPBCN (radar transponder beacon) and TOPMAR (topmark). The issue is that none of the above equipment object classes will neither appear or be suppressed in the ECDIS display when used in association with a structure object (buoy, beacon etc.) which has values encoded with a temporal attribute. At the very least this may confuse a user and cause doubt in the quality of the data.

The original intention in S-57 was that the master slave association between structure and equipment objects would handle the temporal relationship. Unfortunately this was never documented adequately and thus not implemented. The main objective in solving this problem is to cause as little disruption to system equipment and

processes and without any change to the S-52 presentation library. The easiest solution appears to be the addition of temporal attribution to the problem equipment objects by way of a new supplement to S-57.

A test data set containing instances of topmarks, with the additional attributes DATSTA and DATEND, was produced by the BSH and sent out to a number of OEMS accompanied by a questionnaire for documenting their findings. Although the response was not as extensive as one would hope, the results were very encouraging. The majority reported that their system handled the new attributes in exactly the same way as all other temporal attributes. In reality this confirms that the majority are applying a blanket approach to the conditional symbology rules for temporal attributes which, as confirmed by the chair of DIPWG (CSMWG) are not specific to any one object class. The remainder reported that their system ignored the attributes, but without any adverse effect other than one reporting import errors. Whilst not compulsory, the latter will be encouraged to revise their system to accommodate the proposed changes.

Therefore a simple solution which can be implemented relatively easily (as demonstrated in the production of the test data) is to make minor changes to the object dictionaries of production systems. This will ensure an overall improvement to the user experience in the majority of cases, which is what we should all be aiming to achieve.

As can be seen from the above actions, the CHRIS also approved the Data Quality WG recommendation to make changes to some definitions in the attribute CATZOC. These are only changes to definitions and will **not affect existing data**. Therefore on behalf of TSMAD I have prepared a draft S-57 Supplement 2 (which accompanies this letter) for your approval. I have also checked S-58 and I do not believe these changes would require change to this document.

Due to the urgency instructed by the CHRIS in the above actions, I am taking the unusual step of asking for member state approval by means of a vote using the attached voting form. Bearing in mind that CHRIS 20 has already approved a supplement to promulgate the CATZOC changes (20/25), this vote is specifically to endorse the inclusion of the changes to temporal attribution. Subsequent to the CHRIS 20 meeting, it has been decided that a submission to the 4IEHC is both inappropriate and unnecessary and a HSSC letter to MS confirming final approval of the supplement will follow acceptance by TSMAD.

The closing date for responses is **Friday 27th March**. Acceptance criteria will be a simple majority and a nil response will signify acceptance.

Personally I believe these are (unusually for S-57) changes which will allow relatively major gain, with relatively minor pain

Regards,

Barrie Greenslade
Chairman, TSMAD