

**11TH WEND COMMITTEE MEETING
Tokyo, 2-5 September 2008**

Paper for Consideration by WEND

Status of electronic Charting Issues Being considered by IMO

Submitted by:	IHB
Executive Summary:	This report summarizes the status of issues related to electronic charting that are currently under consideration by the IMO.
Related Documents:	IHO CL 58/2008 – 54 th Session of the IMO Sub Committee on the Safety of Navigation

Introduction / Background

1. There are two significant issues related to electronic charting that are currently or have recently been under consideration at IMO. These are:

- Compulsory Carriage Requirements for ECDIS
- E-Navigation

Analysis/Discussion

Carriage Requirements for ECDIS

2. The 54th session of the IMO Sub Committee Safety of Navigation (NAV54) considered proposals for a compulsory carriage requirement for ECDIS for certain classes of vessels engaged on international voyages. The IHB presented papers on the IHO catalogue of ENC Availability and on the current and forecast availability of ENCs.

3. During the discussion no States or Organizations opposed the introduction of a mandatory carriage requirement although a very small minority considered that specific dates could not be set until such time as ENCs were available rather than promised. The large majority of States and Organizations that spoke supported a compromise between the dates / classes of ship / tonnages proposed respectively by Norway and the UK. Representatives of Hydrographic Offices and the IHO reminded the Sub-Committee of the IHO's Resolution to provide an adequate coverage of ENCs by 2010 and of the IHO's Capacity Building activities in this matter together with its continued availability to provide assistance with ENC production.

4. The NAV Sub-committee agreed to a phased implementation of a mandatory carriage requirement for ECDIS. The proposed dates for implementation are 2012 – 2018 depending on class of ship and tonnage. The Sub-committee also agreed to allow States to grant an exemption for ships due for retirement within two years of the relevant implementation date. The Sub-committee prepared draft amendments to SOLAS regulation V/19 to reflect the mandatory carriage requirement. The Sub-committee, based on a proposal by Australia, also agreed to issue an SN/Circular entitled “*Guidance on Transitioning from Paper Chart to ECDIS Navigation*”.

5. The Sub-committee, based on proposals from the IHO and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), adopted the following definition regarding what is meant by an “Adequate ENC Coverage”: It was agreed that *Adequate ENC Coverage* means “*Sufficient ENC availability is equivalent to the best available paper chart coverage of either a Hydrographic Office providing global coverage or the Hydrographic Office of the coastal State.*”

6. The amendments to SOLAS regulation V/19 will now be considered by the Maritime Safety Committee's (MSC) 85th session in November 2008 for approval and then by MSC 86 in May 2009 for adoption. MSC 85 will be invited to approve the SN/Circular. The MSC has also been invited to remove "*Development of carriage requirements for ECDIS*" from the Sub-committee's work programme.

Development of an e-Navigation Strategy

7. The NAV Sub-Committee considered the report of its e-Navigation Correspondence Group and other input papers and finalised a draft strategy for consideration by the MSC. ECDIS and the availability of ENC's are a major element of the strategy and the IHO was requested to continue providing the Subcommittee with annual updates on ENC availability together with reports on Capacity Building activities for the provision of ENC's of the waters of developing States and Small Island Developing States.

Conclusions

8. Based on the IHO assurance that adequate ENC coverage will be available, there is now general acceptance that ECDIS should be a mandatory carriage requirement for certain classes of vessels engaged on international voyages starting from as early as 2012. The actual dates for the implementation programme and the classes of vessels affected will be discussed and confirmed by MSC at its next two meetings.

9. The request to IHO for annual reports on ENC coverage and production ensures that ENC availability, the IHO's commitment to deliver adequate ENC coverage in accordance with the resolution adopted at the XVIIth IHC, and the IHO's work to build hydrographic capability will remain in full view of the work of the IMO. As a consequence it is vitally important that Member States cooperate to the fullest extent possible to ensure that such coverage is achieved by 2010, as has now been clearly indicated to IMO.

Action Required of WEND

10. The WEND Committee is invited to:

Note this report.