

8TH WEND COMMITTEE MEETING
Tokyo, Japan, 5-6 March 2004

Definition of “Integrated Services”
(by IHB)

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	The most recent addition to the WEND Principles is: “5.5 In order to promote the use of ENC’s in ECDIS, Member States should strive for the greatest possible user-friendliness of their services and facilitate <i>integrated services</i> to the mariner.” User-friendliness is a subjective term that will rely on the feedback from the user to determine the degree of success that is attained; however, integrated services requires a clearer definition in order to understand what objectives are expected to be met. The WEND Task Group dealt with this matter and offers one definition for discussion and adoption by the WEND Committee.
<i>Actions to be taken:</i>	Discuss and adopt a definition for “integrated services.” See paragraphs 2 & 3.
<i>Related documents:</i>	WEND-PRI, CL 68/2003

1. Background

From their inception, the WEND Principles have dealt with the production and distribution of ENC’s from the perspective of the National Hydrographic Offices comprising the IHO. With the adoption of Principle 5.5, for the first time the needs and perceptions of the users are taken into account. In constructing this principle, the terms “user-friendliness” and “integrated services” were accepted as goals but metrics as to attainment of these goals were left undefined. This aspect did not get unnoticed by France as they remarked, as reported in CL 68/2003, that *the new SOLAS Convention (July 2002) implies that IHO recommendations and resolutions are now quasi regulatory, which requires accurate definitions*. “User-friendliness” must be defined by the user but “integrated services” requires an objective definition accepted by the IHO. The HB, in CL 68/2003, proposed to address this issue at the 8th WEND Meeting.

2. Discussion

At the second meeting of the WEND Task Group (December 2003), the members discussed the meaning of “integrated services.” The definition proposed by the Chairman of the Task Group and generally agreed to by the members was¹:

¹ Changes marked in blue in the definition below have subsequently been proposed by Mr. H. Hecht (Germany), Chairman of WEND Task Group.

"A variety of end-user services where each service is selling all its ENC data, regardless of source, ~~are sold~~ to the end user within a single service proposition embracing format, data protection scheme and updating mechanism, packaged in a single exchange set ~~and within a single set of license terms and pricing conditions.~~"

While certain terms in the above statement may still need further explanation, the basis concept is that of "one stop shopping." The end user can obtain a product that will provide the various ENCs needed for the intended voyage with the necessary license(s) duly validated. This product can be loaded on the ECDIS in a straight-forward manner and the subsequent updates are applied in an equally straight-forward manner.

3. Conclusion and Recommendations:

There are several reasons offered for the low use of ECDIS (see document WEND 8-4D). The IHO has made a convincing argument regarding the importance of officially issued ENCs and the benefits to safety of navigation and efficiency of maritime operations resulting from their use in ECDIS. One significant issue is the lack of ENC coverage and, for this reason, much of the focus of the IHO for the past several years has been on the production of ENC. As ENC coverage becomes sufficient to service major shipping routes, the concerns of the user will be drawn to the ease with which ENCs can be obtained and maintained.

The WEND Committee is encouraged to adopt a definition for "integrated services" and discuss how these services can be put in place.