

NHC/58

Agenda Item D4

International standard for ECS

This report gives input for NHC58 to discuss a strategy for a mutual standard when ECS is to be used as a primary means of navigation.



International standard IEC 62376

Title:

Maritime navigation and radiocommunication equipment and systems
– Electronic Chart System (ECS) –

Operational and performance requirements, methods of testing and
required test results

Edition 1.0 2010-09



International standard IEC 62376

The ECS specified in this Standard does not meet the chart carriage requirements for SOLAS vessels where ECDIS has been specified for that purpose. A government may choose to accept ECS as a primary means of navigation for vessels that are subject to their regulation.

When a compliant ECS serves as a primary means of navigation, adequate back-up arrangements may be required to ensure safe navigation in the event of an ECS failure.

Three classes of ECS are defined in the Standard:

- Class "A" ECS are designed or adapted for use as a primary means of navigation on non-SOLAS vessels where ECDIS is not specified for that purpose.
- Class "B" ECS are designed or adapted for use as a primary means of navigation on non-SOLAS vessels where ECDIS or Class "A" ECS are not specified for that purpose.
- Class "C" ECS are designed or adapted for use as a navigational aid intended to plot and monitor a vessel's position.



International standard IEC 62376

The Standard allow for ECS systems to be type-approved against a particular type of data. For example, a Class "B" IEC 62376 ECS may be type-approved using official ENC's. The type-approval is then valid only when using official ENC's.

Should a national MSA elect to regulate or advise on the use of ENC's, it would specify both a system and one or more standards-compliant data sets, e.g. ENC's.



International standard IEC 62376

Status:

IEC 62376 was put on the table for review at the TC80 meeting in Sep 2013 because its stability date was 2014 and a TC80 meeting was not planned to be held in 2014.

The meeting was of the opinion that the publication did not have an acceptable usage and recommended that the standard be withdrawn.

Discussion with Swedish and Danish IEC representatives indicates that the reason for the withdrawal is very weak and not in line with normal IEC procedures because normally a withdrawal should have a deeper technical clarification and motivation than just referring to the plenary meeting in the review report.

DGA invites NHC58 to discuss a Nordic strategy for a re-opening of IEC 62376 and a subsequent revision of the standard.



International standard IEC 62376

- CENELEC (European committee for electrical standardisation) has adopted the IEC standard 62376 as an European standard EN 62376 and this standard is still alive according to the Danish IEC representative.
- The European standard was approved by CENELEC on 01-02-2011.

CENELEC members are bound to comply with the CENELEC internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration.

