



IHB File: S3/8162

Monaco, 14 December 2012

To: All accredited S-63 Data Servers and ECDIS Manufacturers

THIS LETTER CONCERNS THE REPLACEMENT OF AN IHO STANDARD RELATED TO ECDIS AND ENCs

**DISCONTINUATION OF THE USE OF EDITION 1.0 OF THE
IHO S-63 DATA PROTECTION SCHEME**

- References:
- a) IHO/DPSWG Letter dated 3 May 2011 to S-63 Data Servers and OEMs- *IHO Questionnaire on the Use of S-63 and Migration to S-63 edition 1.1*
 - b) IHO Letter S3/8162 dated 19 April 2012 to S-63 Data Servers and OEMs - *IHO Data Protection Scheme S-63, Extension of M_ID Numbers*
 - c) IHO Letter S3/8151/DPSWG dated 11 June 2012 to S-63 Data Servers - *IHO Questionnaire on the Implementation of the IHO S-63 ENC Data Protection Scheme*

Dear Data Servers and ECDIS Manufacturers,

1. The ECDIS Performance Standards promulgated by the International Maritime Organization require that the chart information used in ECDIS should conform to the latest editions of the IHO standards. The implications are explained in IMO Safety of Navigation Circular SN.1/Circ.266 as amended.
2. Edition 1.1 of IHO Publication S-63 "*IHO Data Protection Scheme*" was published in March 2008. It superseded edition 1.0 dated October 2003. A small extension of S-63 edition 1.1, that is of no consequence to existing users, was introduced earlier in 2012 to cater for the ever growing number of requests from OEMs for S-63 accreditation. This resulted in S-63 edition 1.1.1 (see reference b).
3. A questionnaire seeking to assess the use of S-63 and the progress of migration from edition 1.0 to edition 1.1 was circulated in May 2011 (see reference a). It was sent again with references b and c. The survey aimed to establish the extent of the adoption of edition 1.1 for ENC data protection and, in cases of difficulty to move to edition 1.1, what are the principal reasons.
4. At the 4th meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC), in September 2012, the Chair of the HSSC Data Protection Scheme Working Group (DPSWG), who is also the author of the questionnaire, reported that the survey results had revealed that whilst there is good adoption of S-63 edition 1.1 by ECDIS manufacturers, there are still a number of legacy systems in use that will only read S-63 edition 1.0 encrypted ENCs unless the system software is upgraded or, in a few cases of very old equipment, the ECDIS is replaced by a modern installation. In order to continue supporting the older albeit dwindling number of S-63 edition 1.0 systems some of the larger Data Servers are still implementing S-63 edition 1.0 in their service.
5. HSSC reviewed the situation, noted that the revised version of the standard had been in place since 2008, and agreed that in order to fully implement and standardise the use of S-63 edition 1.1.1, a deadline should now be set, after which S-63 edition 1.0 will no longer be a valid IHO standard. Accordingly,

1 January 2014 has been set as the termination date for S-63 edition 1.0. After that date S-63 edition 1.1.1 will be the only active and valid version of the S-63 standard to be used.

6. As a consequence, S-63 Data Servers and ECDIS manufacturers are informed that the further use of S-63 Edition 1.0 after 1 January 2014 will result in the termination of their protection scheme agreement in accordance with clause 8.1.2 of the agreement.

7. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by e-mail to: micHEL.huet@iho.int.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Gilles Bessero', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gilles BESSERO
Director