



IHB File No. S3/8151/CHRIS-HSSC

22 April 2009

**To:** Participants in the 20<sup>th</sup> CHRIS Meeting

**Subject:** S-100 - IHO Geospatial Information Infrastructure - S-57 e3.1.2

**Ref:** IHB Circular Letter 106/2008: 20<sup>th</sup> CHRIS Meeting, Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3-7 November 2008

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to inform you of some important decisions that I have made on your behalf, in order to ensure that our important technical work moves forward at an appropriate pace.

As you will know, CHRIS20 agreed a number of actions to be carried forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Hydrographic Conference (4EIHC) to be held in June this year. The Committee noted the report presented by the chairman of TSMAD which outlined the progress made with S-100 and the proposed way ahead. The Chairman of TSMAD proposed to seek MS approval for S-100 to enter force and that such approval could be sought at the 4EIHC. This was agreed by CHRIS 20 (see Action 20/16). At the same time CHRIS20 agreed that a proposal regarding the governance of the geospatial information infrastructure (GII) upon which the development of S-100 depends should also be presented to 4EIHC (see CHRIS Action 20/15).

However, since CHRIS20, a number of additional considerations have been brought to my attention by the IHB, such that the agreed actions have required further consideration by me, on behalf of the Committee.

In addition, CHRIS20 also agreed that a Supplement to S-57 should be introduced to improve the encoding of temporal features as a matter of urgency and also to address minor amendments to CATZOC definitions (see CHRIS Actions 20/13, 20/14 and 20/25). This letter will explain the methodology being adopted to bring Supplement number 2 into force.

### **S-100**

The members of TSMAD involved in the development of the various sections of S-100 have, through their Chairman, expressed confidence that the basis of the standard has now been established. The 300-page draft document has been written by a number of sub working groups, which have included the involvement of our "expert contributors". In order to ensure that an appropriate level of internal consistency exists in the documentation, an external editor is currently working on the document. The external editor is covering structure, style, format and syntax, rather than technical content. This externally edited version of the standard will not be available until early May and will be reviewed by TSMAD shortly thereafter at its meeting in Ottawa.

While the pre-edited draft edition of S-100 was placed on the IHO website in the second half of 2008, its existence was not widely publicised to stakeholders – primarily because of its draft status. It may therefore be considered that the independent review and feedback process, which is a prerequisite for 'Committee Approval' under the procedures developed by CHRIS at its 18<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2006 and subsequently adopted by MS as IHO Resolution A1.21, has yet to take place. Indeed this is the view of the IHB and a number of national Hydrographers, whose counsel I have sought.

## **GII**

Immediately after CHRIS20 the chairman of TSMAD and DIR2 met to discuss the resource implications in administering the GII. However during this meeting and subsequently, the IHB and the chairman of TSMAD have been unable to clearly identify or quantify the likely resources required to maintain the GII function. This is because the GII, and in particular the S-100 Registry is in its infancy - where relatively little administration or management workload is involved. In any case, as part of the introduction of the HSSC and the IRCC, the IHB has already been instructed by member States to monitor the resource impacts. The management and operation of the GII obviously forms a part of the new arrangements for the HSSC. The IHB will be reporting to MS annually and at the IHC in 2012 – where it is quite likely that proposals will be tabled to adjust the resources available to the IHB generally to meet its expected increased workload under the various new arrangements.

### **The Proposed Way Ahead**

In view of all these circumstances, it now seems to me to be unwise to attempt to seek MS approval for the S-100 standard at the 4EHC or to attempt to seek a decision from MS regarding an ill-defined resource impact of the GII. Accordingly, I propose to adjust the agreed CHRIS actions, on your behalf, as follows:

1. As soon as the draft S-100 documentation is endorsed by TSMAD at its next meeting, the revised draft will be placed on the IHO website and all NGIOs and ECDIS stakeholders (taken from the current IHO list) will be informed and invited to comment prior to the inaugural HSSC meeting in October 2009.
2. HSSC-1 to take into consideration any relevant feedback before considering the standard for final endorsement.
3. Immediately after HSSC endorsement, seek MS approval by CL for S-100 to become an effective standard on 1 January 2010.
4. The IHO and IHB will continue to monitor the development of the GII and in particular to identify as soon as practicable any significant requirements for increased administration resources.

In the meantime, and as a way of keeping all MS informed of the status and potential impact of S-100 and the GII on HOs and the IHB in the future, an overview of S-100 will be presented at 4EHC as part of the agenda item covering ENC.

### **Supplement 2 to S-57 e 3.1**

CHRIS20 also approved a proposal to incorporate a minor revision to the definitions for CATZOC in S-57 and another urgent proposal to address the proper attribution of temporal data, particularly as it related to such things as navigation aids. Both of these revisions to S-57 were to be effected through the issue of Supplement number 2 to S-57 edition 3.1 (S57 e3.1.2) as a matter of urgency (see CHRIS Actions 20/14 and 20/13).

The Chairman of TSMAD in consultation with TSMAD members has now drawn up Supplement 2 incorporating the CATZOC revisions as approved by CHRIS 20, and revisions to temporal attribution as described and approved in principle by CHRIS20. He has reported to me that there have been no unforeseen problems regarding temporal attribution and that the Supplement reflects the solution as described to CHRIS20. The supplement has been reviewed by TSMAD members through correspondence. The chairman has also reported to me that he has consulted the principal ECDIS manufacturers and conducted independent testing which has confirmed that the impact on manufacturers and end-users will be minimal. Similarly, major ENC production software manufacturers have confirmed that the impact on their software (and therefore HOs) will also be minimal and easy to incorporate.

The IHB has informed me that Supplement Number 1 which addressed Archipelagic Sea Lanes and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas in S-57, also as a matter of urgency, was brought into force directly by TSMAD and CHRIS (see IHO CL 5/07). It therefore seems logical and expedient to follow the same

procedure for Supplement Number 2, since there is the same need for urgency and the impact on most stakeholders is similarly minimal. Furthermore, this Supplement will address an identified shortcoming in S-57. I have therefore agreed that the introduction of S57 e3.1.2 should follow the same process as S57 e3.1.1, such that S57 e3.1.2 will become effective immediately and will be announced to MS and relevant stakeholders by IHO CL.

I recognise and share the degree of disappointment that you may feel in being unable to move forward with S-100, as anticipated at CHRIS 20. However, I hope you will agree that my proposals, which have been made in consultation with the IHB, offer a firm foundation for moving these important issues forward at a pace which addresses the needs of both Member States and important external stakeholders.

I trust that many of the former CHRIS members will be joining the ranks of HSSC and I will ensure that there will be every opportunity to discuss these matters further at HSSC-1.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V. Nail', with a large loop at the end.

Captain Vaughan NAIL  
Chairman of HSSC