

Current paragraph (to be deleted and replaced with new sections)

IEHG Procedures

— IEHG normally meets once per year. The 7th Meeting of IEHG was held on 9-12 September 2009 at the Federal Ministry of Transport – Innovation and Technology, Vienna, Austria. [Note: a brief report on the outcome of IEHG7 will be submitted for inclusion into this report immediately after the meeting].

However, most of the work of the IEHG is accomplished via e-mail correspondence and the IEHG website [/iehg.openecdis.org/](http://iehg.openecdis.org/).

— IEHG has established a process for submitting proposals for amendments (i.e., Change Requests) to Inland ENC standards. This includes the Inland ENC Encoding Guide, Feature Catalogue, and Product Specification. Every participant in IEHG is entitled to submit proposals. Proposal submission and review is described in Annex A of the IEHG Terms of Reference.

[New sections to be inserted into the IEHG Report to HSSC1]

Current IEHG Membership

As of September 2010, membership and/or participation in the work of IEHG includes:

- 25 Members (government authorities)
- 52 Participants
- 9 International Organizations

Efforts are being made to encourage more governments from South America and South East Asia to participate.

2009 Annual Meeting

The 7th Meeting of IEHG was held on 9-12 September 2009 at the Federal Ministry of Transport – Innovation and Technology, Vienna, Austria. Twenty-one persons attended including representatives from each of the four major regions (Europe, Russia, North and South America). Key topics for discussion included updates on IENC activities in the various regions, review and acceptance of change requests, discussion on need for IENC quality standards, formal definition of an IENC, status of IHO S-100 development, and IEHG participation in IHO GII Register.

Change Request Procedures

IEHG has established a process for submitting proposals for amendments (i.e., Change Requests) to Inland ENC standards. This includes the Inland ENC Feature Catalogue, Product Specification, Encoding Guide, and Validation Checks. Every participant in IEHG is entitled to submit proposals. Proposal submission and review is described in Annex A of the IEHG Terms of Reference. At IEHG7, over 50 Change Requests were reviewed, many of which were adopted. The adopted changes will go into effect in January 2010.

Effective Dates of IENC Standards

At IEHG7, a process was agreed in terms of aligning the edition/version numbers and effective dates of the various IENC standards.

Feature Catalogue & Product Spec	Date effective	Encoding Guide	Date effective	Validation Checks	Date effective
2.0	Oct 2005	1.0	Oct 2005		
	---	1.1	Oct 2006		
	---	1.2	Dec 2006		
2.1	Feb 2008	1.3	Feb 2008		
	---	1.3.1	May 2008		
2.2	Jan 2010	2.2.0	Jan 2010	2.2	Jan 2010
		(2.2.1)			
(2.3)		(2.3.0)			

Definition of Inland ENC

At IEHG7, the need for a formal definition for an Inland ENC was discussed. It was agreed that it would be closely aligned with definition of a 'maritime' ENC that is defined in:

- IMO Performance Standards for ECDIS, Section 3.2
- IHO S-52, Appendix 3 (Glossary of ECDIS-related Terms).

The following definition has been proposed, and following the consensus (or lack of opposition) by all members and participants of the IEHG, will become official, and be included in Inland ENC Product Specification, Version 2.2, to be released in January 2010:

Inland Electronic Navigational Chart (IENC) means the database, standardized as to content, structure and format, for use with inland electronic chart display and/or information systems operated onboard of vessels transiting inland waterways. An IENC is issued by or on the authority of a competent government agency, and conforms to standards initially developed by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and refined by the Inland ENC Harmonization Group (IEHG). An IENC contains all the chart information necessary for safe navigation on inland waterways and may contain supplementary information in addition to that contained in the paper chart (e.g., sailing directions, machine-readable operating schedules, etc.) which may be considered necessary for safe navigation and voyage planning.

IENC Quality Standards

At IEHG7 the need for quality standards for IENCs was discussed. Proposals included:

- Recommended validation checks (to be based on IHO S-58)
- Guidance on determining what constitutes "minimum content" (to be included in the IENC Encoding Guide)
- Minimum accuracy requirements
- Accuracy information content
- Verification of completeness
- Notices to Skippers/Mariners about invalid depth information

Further discussion and refinement of these procedures will occur during 2010 via the IEHG Discussion Forum.
