

Use of INLAND ENC's on type approved ECDIS systems (seagoing)

General Discussions

datemadelfzijl

Mar 4

Dear all,

Is there someone able to explain to me as to why INLAND ENC's are not compatible with type approved ECDIS systems onboard seagoing vessels like Transas, SAM and Maris/Navico.

We do have a lot of customers who would like to make use of INLAND ENC's on there primary navigation system instead of having a separate laptop with OpenCPN or any other.

This off course has something to do with the INLAND standard not being present on those systems, however what exactly is making the manufacturers to not include this standard.

Are there any development to support INLAND ENC's on these kind of navigational systems?

Bernd

Mar 4

Inland ENC's are containing additional Inland specific objects, attributes and enumerations that are not covered by S-57 and S-52. They are therefore a different Product.

IHO has confirmed that it is possible to produce type approved ECDIS that are able to read and display Inland ENC's. But the producers of maritime ECDIS would have to update their software and most probably the users would have to pay for those updates. I would expect that at least one or two producers would develop such updates to their software if there is sufficient pressure from their users.

The situation will be different after the step to S-101 for maritime ENC's and to S-401 for Inland ENC's. These Product Specifications will allow to include a Portrayal Catalogue in the exchange set. It will no longer be necessary to update the software to allow a system to read and display additional products. But S-57 based systems will be on most vessels for many years.

Best regards

Bernd

datemadelfzijl

Mar 4

Thank you Bernd,

Do you know if there are any alternatives (converting etc) to get these Inland ENC's installed on a ECDIS system?

Can these symbols for example be embedded so that the ECDIS can extract the symbols from the chart instead?

gertM
Mar 4

It's not only a problem of converting the IENC into an ENC that can be displayed correctly on a maritime ECDIS. Another problem is the fact that an Inland ENC (after conversion) is not an 'official' ENC and therefore the maritime ECDIS should display it as a non-official ENC. The conversion into an ENC can be made by e.g. the inland chart producers but it will never be an official one!

And this brings the question of responsibility on the table.

Best regards
Gert

Holger
Mar 4

Converting may also lead to the loss of information in the data. I would not suggest this way.

We (ChartWorld) have an ECDIS (eGlobe) that reads IENCs and shows them together with other ENC's.

So choosing a system that is able to fulfill the requirement will be the easiest way of solving the problem.

The S-100 option will be for sure also a solution but it will take a few years before such systems will be available.

And it might take even longer until the data are available too.

Best regards
Holger.

Bernd
Mar 4

If the Inland ENC is converted to an ENC it does not contain inland specific objects (e.g. notice marks, lock basins, ...). As these objects are Minimum Content of an official Inland ENC that may be used for navigation a converted IENC would only be a very reduced chart that would show where you are (like a navigation unit for cars). It would not be allowed to use it for navigation.

It will be possible to include the symbols in an S-401 exchange set in the future, but at the moment it is necessary to update the Presentation Library which is part of the ECDIS software.

Best regards
Bernd

costaneves
Mar 4

Dear Gert,

If the "converted" cells are produced by or under the authority of a Government, then they are official. A Government can even decide that the ENC will be produced by industry. Most of the iENCs issued by the IEHG Members are Government agencies and thus official. Another example is Panama where the maritime ENCs are produced by the Panama Maritime Authority in agreement with another State and the canal ENCs are produced by the Panama Canal Authority. It is up to each government to decide who will produce its ENCs.

Regards, Alberto

gertM
Mar 4

Thanks for the reply Alberto,

Just to be clear: we as Flemish waterway authority (Government agency) can produce official ENCs that may be used on a maritime ECDIS, just like our colleagues of the Flemish Hydrography? These ENCs will have a producers code '7V'!

costaneves
Mar 4

Gert,

Yes, your agency can produce ENCs if mandated by your Government (ideally in coordination with the Flemish Hydrography). It can be with the same producer code or with a different one as you suggested.

ReneVisser
Mar 4

Discussion about the term "official" remains difficult.

Dutch Hydrografie, for example, claims to publish the only official ENCs for the Netherlands, and yes; DH has an official task from the government to produce the so called Maritime ENCs for the benefit of the SOLAS legislation.

Inland ENCs may be official in a different way, (RIS directive EU)

datemadelfzijl
Mar 18

Thank all! Great info.

Just to be sure.. it's not possible (without losing crucial data) to generate 'official' S63 charts of the Dutch inland waterways?