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S-100 Industry Perspective

Management of the S-100 Validation Process

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In November 2022 the IMO Maritime Safety Committee adopted the revised ECDIS Performance Standards to include S-100. ECDIS equipment installed after 1 January 2029 must conform to the new performance standard and ECDIS equipment installed after 1 January 2026 may already conform to the new performance standard.

Keeping in mind the above deadline the IMO has set, the relevant S-100 product specifications must reach the operational level as quickly as possible, to support the production of the relevant S-100 products (S-98 C-6 Data Layers).

To guarantee data consistency, quality assurance is an important aspect of the overall S-100 data-production process. S-100 working groups and project teams have started working on the development of S-100 validation rules and good progress is being made.

Very soon, data producers and companies developing validation software face new challenges, for instance due to:

- a significant growth in the absolute number of datasets that need to be validated,
- the introduction of additional encoding formats (HDF-5, GML),
- the use of new types of data representation (gridded data, point sets, tins),
- the requirement of cross-product validation
- strong demand for S-100 data consistency to guarantee proper product interoperability in ECDIS.

Current solutions for independent S-57 data validation are provided as single-user desktop applications. This requires a lot of manual user interaction and makes co-working and data organization difficult where two or more cartographers work in a team.

While workflow management and automation have already been introduced in the field of data capturing and production, these aspects have been neglected on the validation side. This presentation shows an industry perspective and elaborates on the need for efficient management of the S-100 validation processes, which will become much more complex than has so far been the case.