

**2nd HSSC Meeting  
Rostock, 26-29 October 2010**

**Paper for Consideration by HSSC**

**Recommendations for the procedure used to deal with encoding issues**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	TSMAD
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	This paper recommends a procedure to manage the UOC (S-57 Appendix B.1, Annex A) and the Encoding Bulletins in case of encoding issues related or not to safety of navigation.
<b>Related Documents:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HSSC2-04B “standardized development, consultation and approval procedures for IHO technical standards”</li> <li>2. HSSC2-05.1E “reopening of Use of the Object Catalog for ENC”</li> </ol>

### **Introduction / Background**

Recent events have shown that the Encoding Bulletins were sometimes used to solve issues related to the safety of navigation and that there is a lack of procedure to validate and distribute them. Originally EB were made only for clarifications of S-57 and not made as permanent and obligatory rules of encoding.

This problem has been discussed during TSMAD 20 in Rostock and a proposal, developed in this paper, for a procedure improving the management of EBs has been defined. It supposes that the “Use of the Object Catalog” (S-57 Appendix B.1, Annex A – also called UOC in this paper) is reopened, as presented in the paper in reference 2. This proposal is harmonized with the paper in reference 1.

### **Discussion analysis**

Description of the procedure (see diagram in annex):

When an issue related to ENCs is detected by a final user, an HO, a manufacturer... the description of this issue must be given to the TSMAD Chair. The first question is: “Is there a consequence for the safety of navigation?”

If the answer is “Yes”, the problem cannot be solved only by a change to the UOC or a new EB: In this case there is generally a need to review existing ENCs which doesn’t happen with a new version of the UOC or the publication of an EB. To solve the problem other actions are needed. They can be proposed only by IHB to Member States and stakeholders after a comprehensive study, implying in most cases the advice of WG (TSMAD, DIPWG ...). Those actions are defined case by case and are not described in this procedure.

If the issue has no consequence on safety of navigation the adequate sub-group of TSMAD is tasked to prepare a change to UOC, if relevant, and to prepare and publish, a temporary EB.

This EB must be distributed in the most effective manners to all data producers : Circular Letter, e-mail, web ...

The change to UOC must be validated by TSMAD then HSSC as a change to any technical publication from IHO.

This can be a relatively slow process but the temporary EB is there to fill the gap.

When the change to UOC is adopted and published, the temporary EB is cancelled.

**Conclusion**

The adoption of this procedure could clarify the use of Encoding Bulletins to solve encoding issues, give more publicity on their publication and avoid their use for a major issue related to safety of navigation.

**Action Required of HSSC**

The HSSC is invited to endorse the proposed procedure.

Diagram related to the procedure to manage the UOC (S-57 Appendix B.1, Annex A) and the Encoding Bulletins in case of encoding issues related or not to safety of navigation.

