

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

Paper for Consideration by HSSC

Reopening of Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC

Submitted by:	TSMAD Chair
Executive Summary:	This paper recommends that S-57 Appendix B.1, Annex A - Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC be un-frozen in order to maintain required changes to encoding practices in a centralized location.
Related Documents:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. S-57 Appendix B.1, Annex A - Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC 2. HSSC2-05.1C Recommendations for the procedures used to deal with encoding issues
Related Projects:	

Note: Throughout the document 'Use of the Object Catalogue' refers to IHO publication S-57 Appendix B.1, Annex A - Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC.

Introduction / Background

S-57 Edition 3.1 was frozen to allow ECDIS manufacturers to produce systems without having to constantly revisit and update them as Object and Attribute Catalogues change. When freezing S-57, the Use of the Object Catalogue and Recommended ENC Validation checks (now S-58) remained 'open'. As noted in the TSMAD activities report to CHRIS 14 it was recognised that Recommended ENC Validation checks would require amendment as experience was gained. However it was considered that Use of the Object Catalogue was complete and should be frozen as it had only received minor changes and work was moving towards S-57 Edition 4.0 (renamed S-100). History has proven this to be a mistake and was one of the main reasons for the eventual introduction of Encoding Bulletins.

The purpose of the Use of the Object Catalogue is to integrate the contents of the Object and Attribute Catalogues and provide a straightforward reference to follow when encoding ENCs. It contains the Object and Attribute combinations from S-57 Appendix A and other information from the Product Specification along with general remarks.

Analysis/Discussion

At TSMAD 20 it was noted that users of the S-57 standard have to consult a wide range of documents in order to find specific information. In particular it was noted that S-65 ENC Production Guidance was being used to document important encoding guidance due to the frozen state of S-57 as a whole. It was proposed that the Use of the Object Catalogue be unfrozen so that certain items could be included and Encoding Bulletins be incorporated into the document. There was general consensus that this would be a good thing, there was comment that the Use of the Object Catalogue never needed to be frozen as its content does not affect the implementation of S-57 by OEMs. It is used almost exclusively by ENC producers when encoding data.

Reopening the Use of the Object Catalogue would allow Encoding Bulletins to be incorporated into the document. However Encoding Bulletins in some form would still need to be issued and remain valid, until a new version of the Use of the Object Catalogue is published, to highlight changes to users.

Changes to the Use of the Object Catalogue will follow normal practice include the use of must, may, or should to describe the mandatory or optional use of the encoding requirements. This will promote consistency in the production of future ENC data. Historically, there were two unwritten rules which governed the publication of a new version

- Any change must not adversely affect any ECDIS which would use data produced using the new version.
- The new version must only be used in the production of new ENC data, there is no requirement to revisit and change existing data.

These rules will be added to new versions of the Use of the Object Catalogue.

Any urgent, safety related issues (e.g. retrospective action to overcome the EXPSOU problem), are dealt with in the paper HSSC2-05.1C.

Conclusion

S-57 Use of the Object Catalogue should be an active document, which provides the first point of reference for ENC producers regarding encoding practice. There is no valid reason for it to be frozen, at the time it was frozen more for convenience than there being any requirement to do so. Reopening it will enable the consolidation of elements of other documents, which will make it easier for encoders to find the information they require.

Recommendations

TSMAD Recommends that IHO S-57 Appendix B.1, Annex A - Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC is un-frozen and all elements of other documents pertaining to the consistent encoding of ENCs are incorporated herein.

Action Required of HSSC

The HSSC is invited to:

- a. Endorse the proposed recommendation.
- b. Recommend to Member States that S-57 Appendix B.1, Annex A - Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC be un-frozen and maintained under the rules documented in IHO Resolution 2/2007.