



Ref. T2/2.03

WARNING ON USING NON-EQUIVALENT ELECTRONIC CHARTS

1 At its thirty-eighth session (29 June to 3 July 1992) the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation expressed concern at the proliferation of "non-equivalent" electronic chart systems, which use chart data not compatible with the accuracy of world-wide radionavigation systems and the practice of certain manufacturers to present their "non-equivalent" electronic charts as meeting IMO standards.

2 Shipowners and mariners are warned of the possible dangers of using "non-equivalent electronic chart systems", which use data not compatible with the WGS-84 datum and do not comply with the provisional performance standards for ECDIS circulated by the Organization (MSC/Circ.515).

3 Whilst the equipment concerned may be of assistance to navigation, if used without due care and a full understanding of its limitations and possible errors or if poor chart data, not based on official or authorized chart databases supplied by hydrographic offices, are used in conjunction with an accurate position-fixing system such as the GPS, the equipment could be a danger, rather than of assistance, to proper navigation.