

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 268

REVISED IHO ECDIS STANDARDS

Application: ROs, ship-owners, operators, masters and officers of merchant ships

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) has revised its ECDIS standards, with an implementation date of 1 September 2017. We have been approached by owners/managers uncertain about how to interpret the new requirements for their fleet in service and we are aware that most ECDIS systems are regularly upgraded and so compliant.

For existing ECDIS installations, the IMO has addressed the issue of software maintenance in guideline MSC.1/Circ.1503.

Barbados has determined that compliance with the latest IHO standards is mandatory for ships flying our flag.

We expect that several port states will also consider compliance with the revised standards to be mandatory and that lack of software upgrading may be considered a deficiency, which could lead to detention.

Recommendations

For vessels that are not in compliance our recommendation is therefore to contact your ECDIS manufacturer to initiate an upgrade of existing ECDIS software for compliance with the latest IHO standards.

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