



Office of
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of Maritime Affairs

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

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Marine Advisory: 10/2017

(This Marine Advisory supersedes Marine Advisory 08-2017)

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: ECDIS Electronic Chart Display IHO Standards Updates

The purpose of this Marine Advisory is to inform of recent decisions taken at the fourth session of IMO's Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III) regarding updates to existing Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS). III 4 noted that some manufacturers have been unable to provide the required updates by 31 August 2017 and expressions of concern from Liberia and other Administrations about the challenges being experienced by the industry in making required updates to existing ECDIS on board ships. As a result of the concerns expressed, III 4 issued the attached [III.2/Circ.2](#) regarding action to be taken by port States on required updates to ECDIS. [III.2/Circ.2](#) calls on port State control officers (PSCOs), inspecting ships carrying ECDIS that have not been upgraded, should take a pragmatic and practical approach, and:

- PSCOs should check whether relevant documentation has been issued by the flag State.
- In the absence of flag State's documentation, the PSCOs should consult with the flag State accordingly.

If ECDIS is being used to meet the chart carriage requirements of SOLAS, it should be maintained so as to be compatible with the latest applicable standards of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) that apply from 1 September 2017. This complies with guidance in IMO circular [MSC.1/Circ.1503 Rev.1](#).

This implementation schedule coincided with the Safety of Navigation, including ECDIS, Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC), which is being conducted by the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Tokyo MoU and most other regional MOUs, from 01 September 2017 through 30 November 2017. This flag Administration has noted that PSCOs have taken a pragmatic approach to enforcing this requirement and are working with the flag Administration and the vessel operator when the ECDIS could not be upgraded to the new IHO standard.

Several shipowners/operators have experienced problems meeting IHO compliance date of 31 August 2017 as the result of:

- Incompatibility between existing onboard ECDIS and the update;
- Lack of availability of manufacturers technicians to complete the updates; and
- Updated ECDIS units displaying incorrect information.

As a result of these problems, this Administration has and will issue a letter providing owners and operators whose vessels are experiencing the problems, authorization to continue to use the installed ECIDS, provided the performance of the ECDIS is maintained.

The Administration will issue an authorization letter, if the following supporting documentation is provided:

1. The vessel owner/operator contacted the ECDIS manufacturer/service company and has been advised and provided written confirmation of the date the manufacturer/service company will update or replace the ECDIS unit.
2. The ship has adequate and up to date paper charts and publications in accordance with SOLAS regulation V/27, or confirmation from the manufacturer that performance of the fitted ECDIS is maintained until the upgrade is completed and currently poses no risk to safe navigation and meets the requirements of SOLAS Regulation V/27.
3. The Master informs the relevant port State authorities prior to the vessel's arrival of this situation.
4. A copy of the authorization letter, other correspondence or documentation from the manufacturer/service company is carried on board and, if requested, provided to the port State control officer (PSCO).

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III.2/Circ.2
2 October 2017

**ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY PORT STATES ON THE REQUIRED UPDATES OF
ELECTRONIC CHART DISPLAY AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS (ECDIS)**

1 The Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III) at its fourth session (25 to 29 September 2017), noting that some manufacturers have been unable to provide the required updates by 31 August 2017, expressed concern about the challenges being experienced by the industry in making required updates to existing Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS) on board ships and considered the need for issuing advice to port States.

2 In this regard, the Sub-Committee agreed that port State control officers (PSCOs) inspecting ships carrying ECDIS that have not been updated as per SOLAS chapter V, owing to the lack of availability of required updates from the manufacturer, should take a pragmatic and practical approach. In doing so:

- .1 PSCOs should check whether relevant documentation has been issued by the flag State; and
- .2 in the absence of flag State's documentation, the PSCOs should consult with the flag State accordingly.

3 Member Governments are to be guided accordingly and are invited to bring this advice to the attention of all concerned, in particular, PSCOs, recognized organizations, companies and other relevant parties.