



Office of
Deputy Commissioner
of Maritime Affairs

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

8619 Westwood Center Drive
Suite 300
Vienna, Virginia 22182, USA
Tel: +1 703 790 3434
Fax: +1 703 790 5655
Email: safety@lisrc.com
Web: www.lisrc.com

Date: 30 August 2017

Marine Advisory: 08/2017

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

Subject: ECDIS Electronic Chart Display IHO Standards Updates

The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended, Chapter V, Regulation 27, requires all nautical charts necessary for the intended voyage shall be adequate and up to date. Additionally, Chapter V, Regulation 16.1 requires that adequate arrangements are in place to ensure the performance of a fitted electronic chart display and information system (ECDIS) is maintained.

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 coincides with the Safety of Navigation, including ECDIS, Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) which will be conducted by the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Tokyo MoU and most other regional MOUs, from 01 September 2017 through 30 November 2017.

It has come to attention of this Administration that some shipowners/operators are experiencing problems in 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 will consider, on a case-by-case basis, providing owners and operators whose vessels, are experiencing problems, authorization to continue use of the installed ECIDS, provided the performance of the ECDIS is maintained.

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

1. The vessel owner/operator contacted the ECDIS manufacturer/service company in advance of 31 August 2017 and has been advised and provided written confirmation of the date the manufacturer/service company will update or replacement of 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 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 confirmation 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).

* * * * *