

Port State Control – Information Notice No. 2 of 2012

The purpose of this notice is to advise shipowners, operators, managers and Masters of Isle of Man registered ships of the following;

Guidance on Electronic Chart Display Information System (ECDIS)

The Ship Registry has noticed a rising number of deficiencies related to PSC coding 10112 Electronic Charts (ECDIS) where vessels have been found not to be complying with SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 19.

Accordingly as per SOLAS Chapter V Regulations 18 and 19, for a ship to rely on ECDIS for navigation, the installation must conform to the relevant IMO Performance Standards. Therefore when ECDIS is being used for navigation, it must;

- be type approved,
- be maintained to the latest applicable International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) standards,
- use the official Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC), and
- have on board an adequate independent back up arrangement.

Additionally for the use of ECDIS on board, all Masters and officers in charge of a navigational watch will be required to undertake ECDIS training. The 2010 Manila Amendments to the 1978 STCW Convention as amended entered force on 1st January 2012. These amendments provide for mandatory ECDIS training from 1st July 2013 for all officers serving on ECDIS fitted vessels. Consequently all officers should ensure they have nationally approved ECDIS training and the appropriate certification must be available on board for third party inspection.

As there is a "phased in" requirement for the carriage of ECDIS which commences on the 1st July 2012. Port State Control Officers (PSCO) will increase their focus on ECDIS and the means by which vessels meet their obligations under SOLAS chart carriage requirements.

The following is a guide to ECDIS issues which PSCOs may pay close attention to;

- the appropriate declaration on Form E, of the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate, or Cargo Ship Safety Certificate, or Form P of the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate,
- ECDIS type approval certificate, to confirm that the vessel's ECDIS complies with the relevant IMO performance standards and IEC standards,
- maintenance of the ECDIS equipment to the latest applicable IHO standards,
- use of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs), including their latest editions and corrections to the latest available notices to mariners,
- adequate independent back-up arrangements ensuring safe navigation for the remainder of the voyage in the event of an ECDIS failure (details can be found on Form E or Form P),
- documentary evidence of generic and type specific ECDIS training under taken by the Master and navigating officers,

- evidence of type approved familiarisation training for the use of ECDIS equipment carried on board
- listing of ECDIS as critical equipment in the vessel's shipboard ISM safety management system,
- conformance and alignment with input from sensors and its presentation on the ECDIS display (e.g. heading, speed, rate of turn, etc.....),
- evidence of periodic tests and checks of the ECDIS equipment that is required to be carried out as part of the shipboard safety management system,
- demonstration of operational competency by the vessel's navigating officers (e.g. safety checking of a voyage plan),

An ECDIS unit that is not updated to the latest version of IHO standards may not meet the chart carriage requirements as set out in SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 19.2.1.4. The IMO has issued SN.1/Circular 266/Revision 1 on the need to maintain ECDIS software.

Related information on ECDIS:-

SOLAS Chapter V – Regulation 18

IMO Resolution A. 817(19) Performance Standards for ECDIS, as amended by IMO resolutions MSC.64(67) and MSC.86(70), and further amended by IMO resolution MSC.232 (82) depending upon date of installation

SOLAS Chapter V – Regulation 19.2.1.4, 19.2.1.5, 19.2.10 and 19.2.11

Safety of Navigation IMO Circular SN.1/Circular 207 Rev.1 Differences between RCDS & ECDIS

Safety of Navigation IMO Circular SN.1/Circular 266 Rev.1 Maintenance of Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) Software

Safety of Navigation IMO Circular SN.1/Circular 276 Transitioning from Paper Charts to Electronic Chart Display Information Systems (ECDIS) Navigation

Manx Shipping Notice MSN 026 Replacing Paper Charts with ECDIS

Training – STCW / IMO Model Course 1.27

www.iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=585:news&catid=166:news-links&itemid=828

Mark Bregazzi
Senior Surveyor/PSC Co-ordinator
Isle of Man Ship Registry