

Commonwealth of Dominica**Office of the Maritime Administrator**

TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS

SUBJECT: ECDIS IMPLEMENTATION

REFERENCE:

- (a) IMO Resolution A.817(19) Performance Standards for Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS)**
- (b) IMO Resolution MSC.232 (84) Adoption of the Revised Performance Standards for Electronic Chart Display and Information System**
- (c) STCW Table A-II/1 Navigation at the operational level**

APPLICABILITY: all Dominica vessels currently equipped with, or acquiring an Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS)

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Circular is to bring to the attention of all concerned the information and instructions regarding the provision of charts on board vessels and the implementation and use of ECDIS for navigational purposes.

BACKGROUND:

On 23 November 1995, IMO accepted the performance standards for ECDIS with the adoption of Resolution A.817(19), which was then revised and adopted by Resolution MSC.232(84). These resolutions provide information regarding the installation, use, and training of mariners for the safe usage of ECDIS. ECDIS may be used to replace the up-to-date charts required by regulation V/20 of SOLAS Convention, 1974.

REQUIREMENTS:**General**

- 1 Vessel owners/operators may choose to install an approved ECDIS, when in accordance with the required number and back-up systems, to replace the ship's paper chart catalog.
- 2 When one ECDIS system is installed, the vessel must also be supplied with a full catalog of paper charts covering the complete trade area of the vessel.
- 3 If a vessel owner/operator wishes to use ECDIS to replace the necessity for paper charts altogether, the following conditions apply:
 - a. Both ECDIS units must meet the performance standards prescribed in Resolution A.817(19) as amended;
 - b. Each unit, including primary and secondary sources of power, must be entirely independent of one another;
 - c. Backup power must be capable of supplying a minimum of thirty (30) minutes power to each unit;
 - d. When back-up power is engaged, audible and visual alarms must be indicate primary power failure on the navigational bridge;
 - e. Only official Electronic Navigation Charts (ENC) shall be used, the information data of which is issued by a Recognized Hydrographical Office that is government-authorized;
 - f. Any mariner operating ECDIS must be fully trained and certificated to use the system;

Applicability

- 1 Any vessel that is fitted with an ECDIS system to either supplement or replace existing paper charts must ensure that each system meets the performance standards of Resolution A.817(19) and that appropriate members of the crew are duly trained and certified in accordance with STCW Table A-II/1.

If a vessel owner or operator is ever in doubt of the technical requirements for ECDIS systems, the Administration may be contacted at:

Angela Dawicki

Tel: + 1 508 992 7170

e-mail: Technical@dominica-registry.com

-End-