

Dear Josephine Washington,

In answer to your question, we do accept the carriage of official digital nautical publications provided they meet our regulatory requirements. Canada's *Charts and Nautical Publications Regulations, 1995* (CFNR) (i.e., SOR/95-149) state what publications are required. While digital publications are not addressed specifically, the digital version would have to meet all the same requirements as the paper version. This includes the following; the publication must be published, or issued, by the appropriate authority (i.e., official publication), the publication must be complete for the area to be navigated, and the publication must be up-to-date (i.e., latest edition, corrected and up-to-date as published and amended by the issuing authority).

We would also provide the following additional guidance:

- The CNPR requires the person in charge of the navigational watch to “use” the publication. This requires the electronic publication to be readily available to the Officer of the Watch (OOW) at all times and viewable on the navigation bridge. The officers must also be familiar with their use in the digital format and the operation of the display equipment.
- The system must not interfere in any way with the operation of other bridge systems.
- To ensure continuous availability, it is recommended that there be an appropriate back-up onboard. Acceptable back-up arrangements would include a complete duplicate system with an independent power supply (i.e., a 2nd computer). The primary system should have an emergency source of power.
- Updates should be applied to both the primary and back-up system as soon as practical. When in port, they should be applied prior to passage planning and commencement of the voyage.
- As the publications required by the CNRP must be on board, simply being able to access the publications through the internet would not be considered on board and therefore not acceptable. However, publications downloaded and saved on board or hard copies printed from official internet sources would be acceptable. As these would not be bound publications, the OOW must be able to verify that the documents are complete for the area to be navigated (i.e., title, table of contents, page numbers) and have been published/issued by the appropriate authority
- Notwithstanding the above, the International Code of Signals and the IAMSAR Manual Volume III, when required by the regulations, must be available on board in hard copies to be in accordance with MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.2 and so that they are readily available for emergency use and are not restricted to a specific place or the availability of a computer.
- The publications should be treated in accordance with the document control procedures in the ship's SMS including procedures for timely update.

Best regards,

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