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Ref. T2-OSS/2.7.1

SLS.14/Circ.320
2 October 2008

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974

**Equivalent arrangements accepted under regulation I/5
in respect of Digital Charts, Nautical List of Lights and
other Digital Nautical Publications**

Statement by the Government of Singapore

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communication by the Government of Singapore on equivalent arrangements accepted under regulation I/5 of the above Convention.

The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.



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Our Ref : SS 1.4.6
Your Ref :
Date : 22 September 2008

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION
4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
UNITED KINGDOM

**STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE:
EQUIVALENCE REGARDING THE USE OF DIGITAL CHARTS AND NAUTICAL
PUBLICATIONS**

The Government of Singapore has the honour of notifying the Organization that Singapore would like to submit the enclosed Statement concerning the acceptance of equivalent arrangements in accordance with SOLAS regulation I/5 regarding the use of digital charts and nautical publications.

We would be grateful if the attached Statement is circulated to all contracting Governments.

Yours faithfully,



MARK LIM YEW GUAN
for DIRECTOR OF MARINE
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE

Equivalent arrangement accepted under SOLAS Regulation I/5 Digital Charts, Nautical List of Lights and other Digital Nautical Publications

Regulations V/19.2.1.4 and V/27 of SOLAS 74 require that all ships carry adequate and up-to-date charts and nautical publications on board necessary for the intended voyage. Regulation V/19.2.1.4 further states that "an electronic chart display and information system (ECDIS) may be accepted as meeting the chart carriage requirements".

The Government of Singapore accepts the following equivalent arrangement on Singapore ships under the provision of SOLAS regulation I/5 "Equivalents".

Equivalence regarding Digital Charts, Nautical List of Lights and other Digital Nautical Publications

1 For the acceptance of ECDIS and electronic versions of nautical publications, the following recommendations based on SOLAS requirements shall be complied with:

- .1 the charts and publications must be issued officially or authorized by a government;
- .2 charts and publications must be recognized by the Flag State (Singapore);
- .3 the products must meet the requirements of marine navigation;
- .4 the products must be kept up to date; and
- .5 adequate back-up (see below) so that the safety of navigation is not compromised.

2 The equivalent arrangement shall be further subject to the following conditions:

.1 Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS).

- .1 The ECDIS shall meet the Performance Standards for ECDIS as per resolution A.819(19), as amended by MSC.64(67) Annex 5 and MSC.86(70) Annex 4;
- .2 The ECDIS shall be type approved by an appropriate authority;
- .3 The ECDIS shall use official and up-to-date electronic charts, eg. Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) or Raster Navigational Charts (RNCs); and
- .4 The ECDIS shall be provided with back-up arrangements. The following are accepted as fulfilling the backup arrangements:
 - i. an appropriate folio of up-to-date nautical charts; or
 - ii. a second type-approved ECDIS; or
 - iii. a type-approved electronic backup arrangement for ECDIS mode of operation (using ENC).

.2 Electronic versions of Nautical Publications, List of Lights, Tide Tables and other nautical publications.

- .1 The electronic versions shall be issued officially by an Administration, authorized hydrographical organization or another relevant approved organization;

- .2 The digital publications shall be available to the Officer of the Watch (OOW), without limitations, from the bridge;
 - .3 The computer shall be dedicated for the digital publications and shall be connected always to the main and emergency power supplies; and
 - .4 For backup, the digital publications shall be installed on another computer on board which shall also be made available to the OOW in a short period of time.
- .3 All digital software and hardware shall comply with the recommendations of MSC/Circ.891 *Guidelines for the onboard use and application of computers.*

3 Further, in clarification of para. 2.2.1, we could accept the electronic versions of charts and publications issued by a country pertaining to geographical areas of another country *only* if the first country regularly receives official data from the second country to update its charts and publications for the second country. Arrangements for regular and accurate updates shall be provided.

4 The acceptance of the equivalence for the above electronic products should be carried out on a case-by-case basis where shipping lines would apply to the Flag State (Singapore) for acceptance. All applications should be addressed to Ship Safety Department, Shipping Division, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore.
