

Circular 33 / 2011

To: Vessel Managers, Masters, Officers, Deputy Registrars, Surveyors and Other Interested Parties

Subject: Important Safety Notice about the Reliable Operation of ECDIS

Date: 26.04.2012

Summary:

ALL ECDIS - Following an announcement by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) concerning potential display anomalies in some ECDIS systems, (see IMO MSC Circ. 1391) the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) issued an ENC Data Presentation and Performance Check in October 2011. This check is intended to assist mariners and to help determine the extent of the issues. Reports from sea received by the IHO confirm that a number of manufacturers' ECDIS fail to display some significant underwater features in the "Standard" display mode. In order that all significant objects are visible to the mariner, these ECDIS must be operated in "Full display" or "All display" mode until a software upgrade is made available by the manufacturer. Mariners are strongly recommended to use the IHO ENC Data Presentation and Performance Check issued through ENC service providers and also available directly from the IHO website (www.iho.int) to check the operation of their ECDIS and to determine whether their system is affected.

JRC ECDIS - The Japan Radio Co. Ltd (JRC) has confirmed to the IHO that earlier versions of its ECDIS will not display some types of wreck and underwater obstructions (including stranded wrecks) in any display mode. This means that these models of JRC ECDIS must be used in conjunction with paper charts in order to ensure that all wrecks and underwater obstructions can be identified by the mariner. JRC has issued a notice alerting its customers to this problem (available at:<http://www.jrc.co.jp/eng/product/marine/whatsnew/20100526/index.html>). Mariners using JRC ECDIS should use the IHO ENC Data Presentation and Performance Check to determine whether their system is affected. If it is affected, then the JRC ECDIS should be used in conjunction with paper charts until an equipment software upgrade is available from JRC. Mariners should contact JRC or their JRC equipment support organisation to arrange suitable remedial action.

For further information or clarification please contact the Registrar of Ships, a Deputy Registrar or Fleet Manager at Maritime Cook Islands; alternatively you may contact Maritime Cook Islands Head Office at +682 23848 Phone, +682 23846 Fax, info@maritimecookislands.com

Please ensure this has been forwarded to interested parties.