

Circular 118 / 2015**To: Vessel Owners, Managers, Masters, Officers, Deputy Registrars, Surveyors and Other Interested Parties****Subject: SOLAS Reg. 27 - Nautical charts and publications shall be current and up to date.****Date: 7 December 2015****Summary**

Nautical charts and nautical publications, such as sailing directions, lists of lights, notices to mariners, tide tables and all other nautical publications necessary for the intended voyage, shall be adequate and up to date.

Nautical publications are integral to safe navigation. It is apparent that many vessels have failed to keep them updated and/or corrected. These deficiencies have not been the cause of a detention but have added to the number of deficiencies thereby contributing to ISM failures and therefore detentions. Regardless of this this deficiency alone is sufficient to stop the vessel from sailing.

Masters/Owners/Managers to actively promote compliance with the following:

1. An updated Nautical Publications Portfolio is maintained.
2. The portfolio is subject to review by the Master & navigation officer at regular intervals.
3. Admiralty Notice to Mariners are supplied on a regular basis.
4. Charts/Light list/Radio Lists/T&P notices etc. are corrected for the intended voyage.
5. The shore based Management review compliance using ship visits, audits, etc.
6. There are documented procedures to ensure compliance of points 1-4 above.

Many chart agents will provide **automatic up grades and portfolio management services**. Given the level of noncompliance it strongly preferred that this or some alternate electronic database is used to assist and verify compliance.

Requested actions

Masters/Owners/Managers are requested to confirm receipt/understanding, take note and actively seek compliance with the above.

For further enquiries, please contact the Technical Department at df@maritimecookislands.com.

