



**REPUBLIC OF  
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**  
**MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR**

Marine Notice

No. 7-041-6

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

**SUBJECT: Nautical Chart and Publication Carriage and Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) Requirements**

- References:**
- (a) **SOLAS**, *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea*, Consolidated Edition 2020
  - (b) **STCW**, *International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers*, 2017 Edition
  - (c) **IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1496](#)**, *Unified interpretation on the appendix to the SOLAS Convention regarding the records of equipment concerning nautical charts and ECDIS*, dated 21 November 2014
  - (d) **IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.2](#)**, *ECDIS – Guidance for good practice*, dated 28 November 2022
  - (e) **IMO Circulars [SN.1/Circ.243/Rev.1](#) and [SN.1/Circ.243/Rev.2](#)**, *Guidelines for the presentation of navigation-related symbols, terms and abbreviations*
  - (f) **IMO Circular [STCW.7/Circ.24/Rev.1](#)**, *Guidance for Parties, Administrations, port State control authorities, recognized organizations and other relevant parties on the requirements of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended*, dated 16 June 2017
  - (g) **IMO Resolution [MSC.191\(79\)](#)**, *Performance standards for the presentation of navigation-related information on shipborne navigational displays*, as amended by [MSC.466\(101\)](#), *Amendments to the performance standards for the presentation of navigation-related information on shipborne navigational displays (resolution [MSC.191\(79\)](#))*, adopted on 14 June 2019
  - (h) **IMO Resolution [MSC.530\(106\)](#)**, *Performance standards for Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS)*, adopted 7 November 2022
  - (i) **RMI Maritime Regulations ([MI-108](#))**
  - (j) **RMI Requirements for Seafarer Certification ([MI-118](#))**
  - (k) **RMI Marine Guideline [7-41-1](#)**, *Safety of Navigation*
  - (l) **RMI Marine Guideline [7-41-3](#)**, *Guidelines for Voyage Planning*

## PURPOSE

This Marine Notice provides requirements and guidance for the carriage of nautical charts, nautical publications and ECDIS. This Marine Notice supersedes Rev. Dec/2016 and includes:

- IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.2](#), *ECDIS – Guidance for Good Practice*; and
- consolidated Performance Standards for ECDIS in a table, see §2.4 of this Notice.

## APPLICABILITY

This Marine Notice applies to all RMI-flagged vessels, including fishing vessels over 150 gross tons that are engaged on an international voyage. Refer to the Republic of the Marshall Islands [Maritime Regulations](#) (hereinafter “Maritime Regulations”), §2.11.9.

## REQUIREMENTS

### 1.0 General Requirement

- 1.1 Consistent with the SOLAS V/19.2.1.4 and V/27, all vessels must carry nautical charts and nautical publications necessary to plan and display the vessel’s route for the intended voyage, and to plot and monitor the vessel’s position throughout the voyage.
- 1.2 In addition, all vessels must carry nautical charts and publications that may be needed to safely enter a harbor of safe refuge along the intended route.

### 2.0 Chart Carriage Requirements

- 2.1 All vessels must carry an adequate portfolio of nautical charts updated to the latest edition of Notices to Mariners available onboard for their planned voyage. All charts must be of a large enough scale and have enough detail to make safe navigation of the area possible. Guidelines for maintaining a regular and efficient system for updating nautical charts are contained in RMI Marine Guideline (MG) [7-41-1](#)
- 2.2 As defined by SOLAS V/2.2, nautical charts are issued officially by or on the authority of a government-authorized Hydrographic Office or other relevant government institutions. See MG [7-41-3](#).
- 2.3 Masters must ensure that any charts required by port State regulations for ports where the vessel will be calling during a voyage are onboard and updated as necessary.

2.4 ECDIS satisfies the chart carriage requirement<sup>1</sup> of SOLAS V/19.2.1.4, provided it meets the following criteria:

- .1 The ECDIS must be of a type approved per SOLAS V/18 and conform to the relevant International Maritime Organization (IMO) performance standards not inferior to those specified in this table;

<b>ECDIS installed on or after</b>	<b>Performance standards for ECDIS</b>
1 January 2029	<a href="#">MSC.530(106)</a>
1 January 2026, but before 1 January 2029	<a href="#">MSC.530(106)</a> or <a href="#">MSC.232(82)</a>
1 January 2009, but before 1 January 2026	<a href="#">MSC.232(82)</a>
1 January 1996, but before 1 January 2009	<a href="#">A.817(19)</a> as amended by <a href="#">MSC.64(67)</a> and <a href="#">MSC.86(70)</a>

<b>Shipborne navigational displays installed on the bridge of a ship for radar equipment, ECDIS, and integrated navigation systems</b>	<b>Performance standards for the presentation of navigation-related information</b>
on or after 1 January 2024	<a href="#">MSC.191(79)</a> as amended by <a href="#">MSC.466(101)</a> , taking into account <a href="#">SN.1/Circ.243/Rev.2</a>
on or after 1 July 2008 but before 1 January 2024	<a href="#">MSC.191(79)</a> , taking into account <a href="#">SN.1/Circ.243/Rev.1</a>

- .2 Uses up-to-date electronic nautical charts (ENCs);
  - .3 Is maintained to be compatible with the latest applicable International Hydrographic (IHO) standards; and
  - .4 Has adequate, independent back-up arrangements as required by SOLAS V.19.2.1.5 and the relevant IMO performance standards specified above.
- 2.5 In areas for which ENCs have not been issued or are not of an appropriate scale for the planning and display of the vessel’s voyage plan, either the ECDIS can be used in the Raster Chart Display System (RCDS) mode or paper nautical charts can be used. If an ECDIS is operated in the RCDS mode, an appropriate portfolio of up-to-date paper charts must be carried onboard and be available for use.
- 2.6 The vessel’s manager is responsible for determining the form of charts to be used onboard as the primary means of navigation. The form of chart used as the primary means of navigation shall be indicated in the Company’s Safety Management System (SMS).
- 2.7 All navigation work must be done on the form of chart indicated in the Company’s SMS.

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1. Part A of [MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.2](#) contains a summary of the Chart Carriage Requirement of SOLAS, including back up requirements to ensure safe navigation in case of ECDIS failure.

- 2.8 IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1496](#) provides a unified interpretation for how to document the form(s) of nautical charts or ECDIS carried onboard on the vessel's Record of Equipment (Form E, C or P as appropriate)<sup>2</sup>.

### **3.0 ECDIS Carriage Requirements**

- 3.1 ECDIS must be fitted on specific types of vessels as indicated in SOLAS V/19.2.10.
- 3.2 An ECDIS that is not updated to the latest version of the IHO Standards may not meet the chart carriage requirements as set out in SOLAS V/19.2.1.4. (See §2.4 above). It is important that the ECDIS software meet the most current IHO Standards to ensure that an ENC is correctly displayed. Refer to IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.2](#), Part B (software maintenance) and Part C (onboard ECDIS updates).
- 3.3 Every ECDIS onboard must be operational and fitted in accordance with SOLAS as provided in §2.4 above.

### **4.0 ECDIS training and seafarer certification**

#### **4.1 ECDIS training**

ECDIS training applies to all vessels fitted with ECDIS. This training must be provided to Masters and deck officers following the requirements of:

- .1 STCW Convention II/1, II/2, and II/3;
- .2 STCW Code Tables A-II/1, A-II/2, and A-II/3;
- .3 IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.2, Part F;
- .4 IMO Circular [STCW.7/Circ.24/Rev.1](#); and
- .5 IMO Model course 1.27.

#### **4.2 STCW Seafarers certification**

Refer to RMI Seafarer Certification Requirements, [MI-118](#), §5.1.2.

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2. If a vessel is fitted with ECDIS but paper nautical charts are designated in the Company's SMS as the primary form of navigation, the Record of Equipment must indicate that both ECDIS and nautical charts are provided as indicated in IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1496](#), Scenario 3. According to this Scenario, when paper charts are used as the primary means of navigation they may also be regarded as the ECDIS back-up arrangements.

#### 4.3 ECDIS familiarization

- .1 ECDIS familiarization must be provided to Masters and deck officers following the requirements of:
  - a. STCW Convention I/14, paragraph 1.5; and
  - b. International Safety Management (ISM Code), section 6.3
- .2 Familiarization must be completed in accordance with the shipboard SMS procedures before an officer assumes a navigational watch. It is intended to familiarize the watch officer with the basic operation of the ECDIS equipment aboard the vessel to which they are assigned, including route planning and execution. ECDIS manufacturers should provide companies and vessels with the appropriate training resources, including type-specific materials. A separate ECDIS type-specific familiarization course is not required. Refer to IMO Circular [STCW.7/Circ.24/Rev.1](#).

#### 5.0 Nautical Publications

- 5.1 At a minimum, vessels must carry sailing directions, lists of lights, notices to mariners, tide tables, and current table for the vessel's planned voyage in accordance with SOLAS V/19.2.1 and V/27. Other publications, including a nautical almanac and coast pilots (where issued) must also be carried.
- 5.2 Masters must ensure that any nautical port publications required by port state regulations where the vessel will be calling during a voyage, are onboard and updated with the latest published corrections.
- 5.3 Nautical publications must be issued officially by or on the authority of a Government-authorized Hydrographic Office, or other relevant government institution. All nautical publications must be updated to the latest edition of Notices to Mariners that is available onboard. Guidelines for maintaining a regular and efficient system for updating nautical publications are in MG [7-41-1](#).
- 5.4 Electronic nautical publications (ENP) may be used to either partly or fully fulfill the requirements of SOLAS, Chapter V, and [Maritime Regulations](#), §7.41.15, provided the following conditions are met:
  - .1 Nautical publications required for intended voyage planning (examples include sailing directions, coast pilots, light lists, tide, and current tables, etc.) must be provided with electronic or paper back-up arrangements.
  - .2 Relevant back-up copies must be corrected and ready for use when needed. When an electronic back-up is carried, portions of the publication needed for the planned voyage must be printed and included with the voyage plan unless the electronic back-up is an independent computer system with its own emergency source of power.