



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Our ref.
9–1963

Date
07.06.13

Josephine Washington
Product Manager
United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
Taunton

Dear Ms Josephine Washington

The Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation has considered your letter of 10 April 2013, in which you enquired about the possibility of using digital maritime navigational publications in place of paper versions on sea-going vessels sailing under the State Flag of the Russian Federation.

Chapter V, Regulation 27 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974, as amended (hereinafter – SOLAS 1974), in accordance with which maritime navigational charts and maritime navigational aids, such as sailing directions, lights lists, notices to mariners, tide tables and all other navigational aids for the intended voyage shall be adequate and up to date, is applicable in relation to providing vessels with maritime navigational charts and aids.

In addition, account is taken of the International Maritime Organisation (hereinafter – the IMO) concept set out in IMO circular MSC-MERC.2/Circ.2, dated 1 June 2006, in accordance with which it is permissible to use digital publications on maritime navigation with the exception of publications which may be demanded in an emergency, such as the International Code of Signals and Volume III of the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual (IAMSAR Manual).

Said requirements do not prohibit the use on sea-going vessels of tide tables, lights lists and lists of radio signals in digital form in place of their paper analogues.

The possibility of using digital maritime navigation publications in place of their paper analogues must be reflected in the safety management system developed by the ship-owner in accordance with the requirements of Chapter IX of the Appendix to the International Convention for the Safety of Human Life at Sea 1974 and the International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention, and approved by an authorised organisation for the classification and certification of ships (a classification society).

Yours sincerely

Director of the Department
for State Policy on Maritime
and River Transport

(signed)

K.G.Pal'nikov