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**ELECTRONIC CHART DISPLAY SYSTEMS**

1 At its fifty-third session (8 - 17 September 1986), the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 53/24, paragraph 3.29) approved the attached recommendation (NAV 32/13, annex 4) requesting Administrations to advise users of electronic chart equipment to treat the information provided by such equipment with caution and regard electronic charts as only supplementing conventional charts and not as a replacement for them.

2 At the request of the Committee, the above recommendation is brought to the attention of Member Governments.

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ANNEX

## RECOMMENDATION ON ELECTRONIC CHART DISPLAY SYSTEMS

- 1 Recently there has been a substantial increase of interest in the concept of Electronic Chart Display Systems (ECDIS) on board ship and different equipment which can provide video displays of chart type information is now available. An ECDIS, which presents chart information derived from a digital data base, can be associated with other inputs such as ships' position and radar.
  - 2 The safe use of these displays for navigation purposes depends on a number of factors including the existence of an adequate data base, the accuracy of digital information, the availability of satisfactory means of updating that base and the provision of safe and comprehensive methods of data selection for display.
  - 3 ECDIS are at an early stage of development and many problems, particularly in relation to the aspects mentioned in the previous paragraph, remain to be solved. The subject is under active study jointly by IMO and IHO and it is hoped that this work will result in acceptable international standards being adopted.
  - 4 Member Governments are meanwhile recommended to advise seafarers that when these systems are used they should be regarded with caution and not considered as an acceptable equivalent to conventional charts, the carriage of which remains mandatory under the provisions of SOLAS regulation V/20.
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