

# Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and for Nautical Cartographers

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## **ABSTRACT**

During the International Congress of Surveyors (FIG) at Wiesbaden in 1971, a Working Group was formed by Commission IV (Hydrography) to develop International Standards of Competence within the profession of surveying at sea. In 1972, the International Hydrographic Conference at Monte Carlo, the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) set up a working group for the compilation of training programmes in hydrography conducted by Member States. In 1974, at the XIV FIG Congress in Washington, it was resolved that the FIG and IHO working groups combine to study and modify the Report of the FIG working group on Educational Standards.

In 1977, at FIG respectively IHO conferences an International Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors (the Board) was formed.

In 2001, at the ICA conference in China, ICA decided to accept a proposal from IHO and FIG to expand the task for the Advisory Board to "Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers" and to nominate two more members of the Board.

## **The Task for the Advisory Board**

The FIG/IHO/ICA International Advisory Board shall:

- Review at appropriate intervals (not exceeding two years) the recommended minimum standards of competence for hydrographic surveyors and nautical cartographers, taking into account comments and recommendations received from National Focal Points (NFP) and other authorities.
- Maintain and promulgate all publications and documents resulting from the tasks carried out by the Board.
- Review the syllabi of programmes submitted by Hydrographic Offices, institutions and learned bodies taking into account comments and recommendations received from National Focal Points and other authorities.
- Provide advice and comments on such syllabi by comparison with the recommended minimum standards and award certificates of programme recognition to those institutions whose programmes meet the recommended standards.
- Review the procedures of submission.
- Communicate with IHO through the IHB, with FIG through the Chair of Commission IV, and with ICA through the Commission on Marine Cartography.
- Normally meet once each year.

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TS4.1 Standards and Education in Hydrography

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Standards for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers

FIG XXII International Congress

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## Members of the Advisory Board

The IHO/FIG/ICA International Advisory Board will be composed of members:

- Of known competence in the civil, governmental or educational sectors of hydrographic surveying and nautical cartography.
- Selected to provide as wide as possible a spectrum of knowledge and experience in educational practices, hydrography and nautical cartography.
- From different geographical areas, as far as reasonable.
- The Board will have up to ten members, four provided by FIG, four provided by IHO and two provided by ICA. Current members see App 1.

## Working Conditions

Every year the members of the Board look through the Standards and make updates. Every second year there has been a new edition of the *Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors* and now the current edition is the ninth. It is published by the INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC BUREAU as publication M-5.

This year the first edition of the "Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers" will be finished and published by IHB.

A number of courses are reviewed every year. See app 2.

Most of the work is done by correspondence but the Board meets once a year mostly hosted by some of the board members. See app 3.

The most important conditions for the work in the Board is the continuity and therefore each member should be able to stay in the Board for at least 5 years.

It is also important that the members have secured the sponsoring of the expenses, travel and accommodation, to be able to attend every meeting.

So far the Board has functioned very well and done an excellent job, acknowledged by both FIG and IHO.

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