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CCNR sets into force new editions of Inland ECDIS and Inland AIS test standard

- **At its October 2012 meeting, the Police Regulations Committee of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) approved and decided to set into force the Edition 2.0 of the Inland AIS Test Standard and the Edition 2.3 of the Inland ECDIS.**
- **These new editions henceforth constitute the basis for the procedures for type approval for Inland AIS and Inland ECDIS devices used in navigation mode.**

Strasbourg, 12.11.2012

The Inland AIS (AIS = Automatic Information System) is one of the key technologies for river information services, allowing the automatic exchange of identification and nautical data between vessels and between vessels and on-land installations. It is an instrument for monitoring and locating inland navigation vessels; its aim is to improve the safety and efficiency of inland navigation by making on-board decision-making easier. Only those devices that have been approved on the basis of a type approval that complies with the Test Standard may be used on Rhine vessels.

The Test Standard is based on the standard applicable to Class A maritime AIS equipment, i.e. the standard IEC 61993-2. This standard was revised in 2012, which made it necessary to completely revise the Inland AIS Test Standard and produce Edition 2.0. The revision removes significant ambiguities in the previous Test Standard and incorporates in it a number of new maritime AIS functions. The scope of the additional Inland AIS functions has not been changed, although some details have been added to the “number of persons on board” message, and the input “length and beams of convoys” has been incorporated in the Inland AIS Test Standard. The Test Standard has been restructured, and now refers only to the extension of the Inland AIS functionality based on the standard IEC 61993-2 Edition 2.

The CCNR’s Police Regulations Committee has adopted Edition 2.0 of the Test Standard on 16th October 2012. It decided at the same time that the Test Standard would enter into force on the date of publication of Edition 2 of the standard IEC 61993-2. This was published on 19th October 2012. As a result, all type approval procedures for Inland AIS devices provided for in Article 7.06 (3) of the Rhine Vessel Inspection Regulations since that date must be performed on the basis of Edition 2.0 of the Test Standard. Inland AIS devices with a type approval that complies with Edition 1.01 of the test standard may still be installed on vessels; the CCNR has not yet set a date limit for doing so.

The Inland ECDIS (ECDIS = Electronic Chart Display and Information System) is an electronic system for displaying inland navigation charts and other related geographical information designed to increase the safety and efficiency of inland navigation by making direction-finding on the waterway easier. At

the same time, compared with the conventional information systems designed for navigation, the Inland ECDIS shall reduce the navigational workload.

The new Edition 2.3 clarifies the references to the AIS and is now in line with the international standards. This new edition has made it possible to correct a number of mistakes, and to improve the graphic representation of several superposed objects. New types of objects and attributes have also been introduced, which increases further both the quality of the information, and safety. At its meeting on 16th October 2012, the CCNR's Police Regulations Committee decided to set into force at the same time the Edition 2.3, which it had already adopted in November 2011. Edition 2.3 must therefore be applied for the production of electronic inland navigation charts and the type approval procedure for Inland ECDIS devices that may be used in navigation mode referred to in Article 7.06 (1) of the Rhine Vessel Inspection Regulations.

About the CCNR (www.ccr-zkr.org)

The Central Commission is an international organisation that exercises an essential regulatory role in the navigation of the Rhine. It is active in the technical, legal, economic and environmental fields. In all its areas of action, its work is guided by the efficiency of transport on the Rhine, safety, social considerations, and respect for the environment. Many of the Central Commission's activities now reach beyond the Rhine and are directly concerned with European navigable waterways more generally.

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