

# Bulletin

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## Australian Ship Safety Information

### --- Official Nautical Charts

AMSA recently release a Marine Notice 6/2017 (MO 6/2017), reminding vessel MUST use official nautical charts. Extracting from which, we produce this issue of BULLETION.

Official charts are those issued by or on the authority of a government, authorised hydrographic office or other relevant government institution.

As indicated in MO 6/2017, AMSA PSCO will detain such ships and those that amend their original voyage plans whilst enroute to an Australian port (and don't use the required official charts for the amended plan).

Some ships have also been found by AMSA to be navigating using a small scale chart, when a larger scale chart is more appropriate (but is not available on-board, which is contrary to safe navigational practice).

#### **OFFICAL NAUTICAL CHARTS**

SOLAS Chapter V, Regulation 27 requires nautical charts and nautical publications necessary for the intended voyage to be adequate and up-to-date.

For an Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) or Paper Nautical chart to be considered adequate for navigational purposes, it must be:

- issued officially
- of appropriate scale, suitable for the navigational task at hand
- of the latest edition
- used in its original form, and
- maintained up-to-date, using the latest available notices to mariners or ENC update service.

For **OFFICIAL AUSTRALIAN NAUTICAL CHARTS**, your attention was withdrawn as below:

Official Australian paper charts are issued and updated by the Australian Hydrographic Service (AHS) under the 'AUS' series. A list of authorised AHS chart distribution agents is at [www.hydro.gov.au](http://www.hydro.gov.au) .

Official Australian ENC are issued and updated by AHS under the 'AU' series. A list of authorised AHS ENC distribution agents is at [www.hydro.gov.au](http://www.hydro.gov.au) , and on the IC-ENC website ([www.ic-enc.org](http://www.ic-enc.org) ).

### **UNOFFICIAL NAUTICAL CHARTS**

Unofficial nautical charts should not be used for voyage planning or navigation.

Unofficial paper charts include (but are not limited) to:

- photocopies
- facsimiles or imitations of official paper charts
- large format commercial printed copies of scanned ENC, and
- paper charts 'assembled' by printing several small portions of a Raster Navigational Chart (RNC)

Unofficial copies of official ENC can be at inappropriate scales, contain out-of-date data, miss significant features and information, not have access to a timely or reliable update service, not display correctly or fail to include chart reliability information.

Unofficial electronic charts include those specifically published for recreational use.

### **HOW TO RECOGNIZE UNOFFICIAL PAPER CHARTS**

All AHS charts are metric and are referred to WGS 84. The 'look and feel' comparison may also raise suspicion that a chart is unofficial. An unofficial nautical chart may have:

- a superseded edition date (compared with corresponding details on the AHS website)
- ink of a different colour (or be in black and white)
- inconsistent colour across the chart
- colours that can be erased, or

- a different weight or feel of the paper.

## HOW TO RECOGNIZE UNOFFICIAL ENC

Unofficial electronic charts are required to carry a warning that they are not suitable for navigation. They may have packaging which incorrectly refers to them as 'professional', use misleading phrases such as 'uses official data' or be in a format other than S-57/S-63.

Once in use, unofficial electronic charts are likely to:

- not contain the zones of confidence/CATZOC data quality information layer (asterisks enclosed by a triangle or ellipse in a repeating pattern), with a strong tendency to make any poorly charted areas look better than they are;
- cause an on-screen alert "Unofficial Data" on the ECDIS (unencrypted ENC trigger this as well). This alert may also be generated by the absence official ENCs (a gap in the available ENC coverage). On some ECDIS, this alert is visible on-screen.

AMSA also presents a picture in MO 6/2017, demonstrating difference between Official ENC and Unofficial ENC. For more details, please refer to it straightly. We thanks AMSA for above valuable information.

Attachment 1---Marine Notice 6/2017 ---Official Nautical Charts

CCS Australia Office

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Announcement:

1. Intention is to assist and ensure owners to understand and well prepared, ensuring all updated requirements from AMSA can be met
2. For more information, please visit AMSA website at [www.amsa.gov.au](http://www.amsa.gov.au) and CCS website at [www.ccs.org.cn](http://www.ccs.org.cn)
3. The information contained does not and cannot supersede any AMSA or related governing parties requirements as well as CCS class rules and regulations.