



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping
3rd Floor, Ken Lee Building
Edith Cavell Street
Port-Louis

MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE Ref: 1 of 2019

Title: The use of appropriate Nautical charts within Mauritius waters

Notice to: **Ship Owners / Masters/Managers / Ship Operators**

The objective of this Merchant Shipping Notice is to inform Masters, Ship Officers, Ship owners, operators, agents and Marine superintendents about the necessity to use appropriate navigational charts when approaching or calling in Mauritius and the Outer Islands.

During Port State Control inspections, it has been noticed that on several occasions, vessels calling at Port Louis, Mauritius are not using the appropriate official charts for navigation in Mauritian waters.

In some cases, especially fishing vessels, the use of unofficial charts was noted. In one case where the vessel went aground, it was found that the Master was using a "World Map" as navigational Chart. Another vessel not using appropriate charts dropped anchor and severely damaged telecommunications cables.

Unofficial nautical charts include but are not limited to: photocopies, facsimiles or imitations of official paper charts, large format commercial printed copies of scanned Electronic Navigational Charts, and paper charts "assembled" by printing several small portions of a Raster Navigational Chart.

The Director of Shipping wishes to draw the attention of all those concerned of the importance of using official nautical charts, issued by or on behalf of a Government, authorised Hydrographic Office or other relevant government institution so as to comply with applicable requirements which implement Chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), as amended.

The National Hydrographic Office, (NHO) India is the Principal Charting Authority for Mauritius. Several Joint hydrographic surveys have been conducted by NHO in collaboration with the Government of Mauritius within the Exclusive Economic Zone for the purpose of production of paper and Electronic Navigational Charts. Eight paper charts and 10 Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) have been published till date covering major harbours (Port Louis & Port Mathurin), approaches to shipping intensive areas, mainland Mauritius, outer islands of Agalega, Saint Brandon and Rodrigues. These Charts are regularly updated and indicate all the latest features and dangers to navigation to mariners and users in general. All the charts have been accorded with INT (international) status in 2015.

The Mauritius Hydrographic Service distributes the full portfolio of "Mauritian" charts at its Office and through authorised chart agents, who sell and distribute those charts. A list of available charts and authorised chart distribution agents is at Appendix 1.

Masters, Ship Officers, Ship owners, operators, agents and Marine superintendents are advised to make maximum use of the charts mentioned above when calling in Mauritius.

Vessels not complying to these requirements may be subject to detention upon Port State Control inspections.

Director of Shipping

(Shipping Division)

Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

3rd Floor, Ken Lee Building

Edith Cavell Street

Port-Louis

Republic of Mauritius

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Phone: +230 2600024-27

Fax: +230 2137013

Email: shippingdivision@govmu.org