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| From: ARM1 | ARM1-11.1.5 |
| To: ENAV & Secretariat | 28 Nov 2014 |

Liaison Note

IHO Proposal on Persistent Unique Identifiers

# Introduction

The ARM Committee at its first session considered input ARM1-7-1-12 (e-Nav15-14-1-12) and associated supporting documentation which raised the concept of Persistent Unique Identifiers (PUI) for Marine Aids to Navigation. This was raised from an input to ENAV15 by the IHO Standardisation of Nautical Publications Working Group (SNPWG). The IHO SNPWG has proposed that each AtoN be assigned an internationally recognizable PUI. In its proposal, SNPWG noted that “An increasing number of offices produce their List of Lights information from a database. The re-order of both the national and/or the international numbers would cause significant problems for the producer.”

# Persistent Unique Identifier

The ARM Committee has considered the Liaison note from ENAV regarding PUIs. It considers the concept of the proposal and the additional considerations to be a good idea for the furtherance of e-Navigation; however, it has a number of concerns that could not be resolved from the information present in the input documents, for example:

* It was not clear whether the PUI would replace and erase the national/international identifiers already existing in national/international lists of lights, or whether it would be used as underlying metadata that could be used in a way that was agnostic/transparent of the user.
* Is the PUI just a characteristic of the “station” name, or would another PUI be issued if, for instance, a light character changed?
* How would this system handle temporary (e.g. Emergency Wreck Marker Buoys) AtoN?
* Which body would be responsible for the issue/control of the PUIs.

During the ARM1 session, it became apparent that the IHO has deferred consideration in this matter until further notice. However, the concerns noted above are extant and the IALA Domain Manager (presently Dr Nick Ward) should note this.

# Action requested

* The ARM Committee requests that the IALA SG does not endorse the PUI scheme with IHO on the matter until these issues are resolved.
* The ENAV Committee to note.
* IALA S-100 Domain Manager to note.