

Elevating Hydrographic Practice in Canada Through Certification

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WHO ARE THE IBSC?

The **International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers** is a joint initiative of:

- The **International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)**
- The **International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)**
- The **International Cartographic Association (ICA)**



WHAT DOES THE IBSC DO?

Establish a Global Competency Standard

Develop & maintain internationally recognized standards of competence for
Hydrographic Surveyors (S-5A & S-5B)
Nautical Cartographers (S-8A & S-8B)

Evaluates and Recognizes Programs & Modules within Programs

Review and recognize academic and training programs that meet the IBSC standards of competence.

Promotes Consistency in Training

Ensure harmonized, high-quality education and training worldwide in hydrography and cartography.

Supports Capacity Building

Encourage the development of skilled professionals to meet the evolving needs of the maritime and geospatial sectors.

WHAT ARE THE S-5A/B STANDARDS?

S-5A (Advanced Level / Post Graduate)

- Designed for professionals with strong foundational knowledge
- Focuses on analytical, managerial, and decision-making skills
- Emphasizes theory, research, and complex project planning
- Prepares individuals for leadership roles in hydrographic surveying.

S-5B (Technician Level)

- Provides practical, job-ready training
- Focuses on the acquisition, processing, and presentation of hydrographic data
- Suitable for those entering or already working in industry
- Emphasizes hands-on experience with current technology

DOES CERTIFICATION MATTER?

- **Graduation** from an IBSC recognized program alone **does not make you a certified hydrographer or cartographer.**
- **Experience alone** – even a lot of experience – **is not enough** to achieve certification.
- Certification worldwide is built on a **balance of education and practical experience.**

But why bother?

- People say it is too much work, they are too busy: “I don’t really understand it or what’s in it for me.”

WHY CERTIFICATION!

- Professionalism
- Becoming a requirement
- Global Recognition
- Empowerment

PROFESSIONALISM

- Professionalism
 - Show you have the right education.
 - Show you have the right experience.
 - The industry is changing quickly, with certification comes continuous professional development.

Meaning of **professional** in English



professional

adjective

UK /prəˈfeʃ.ən.əl/ US /prəˈfeʃ.ən.əl/

Add to word list

B2

relating to work that needs special training or education:

- *Chris, you're a nurse, so can I ask your professional **opinion** on bandaging ankles?*
- *Both doctors have been charged with professional **misconduct** (= bad or unacceptable behaviour in their work).*

BECOMING A REQUIREMENT

- 7.1 It is recommended that an ACLS Certified Hydrographer (CH or CHTech) or equivalent Certification recognized by the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC), be employed as part of the onsite team, for the duration of a project. These certifications will constitute part of the technical rating criteria of this RFSA.

Canadian Hydrographic Service

UKHO Hydrographic Survey Specifications

Charge Surveyor

“The Charge Surveyor must be accredited to HPAS Level 1 or 0 (or equivalent) and/or degree level hydrographic surveying qualification from an IBSC Category A recognised course

Australian HydroScheme Industry Partner Program - Statement of Requirement:

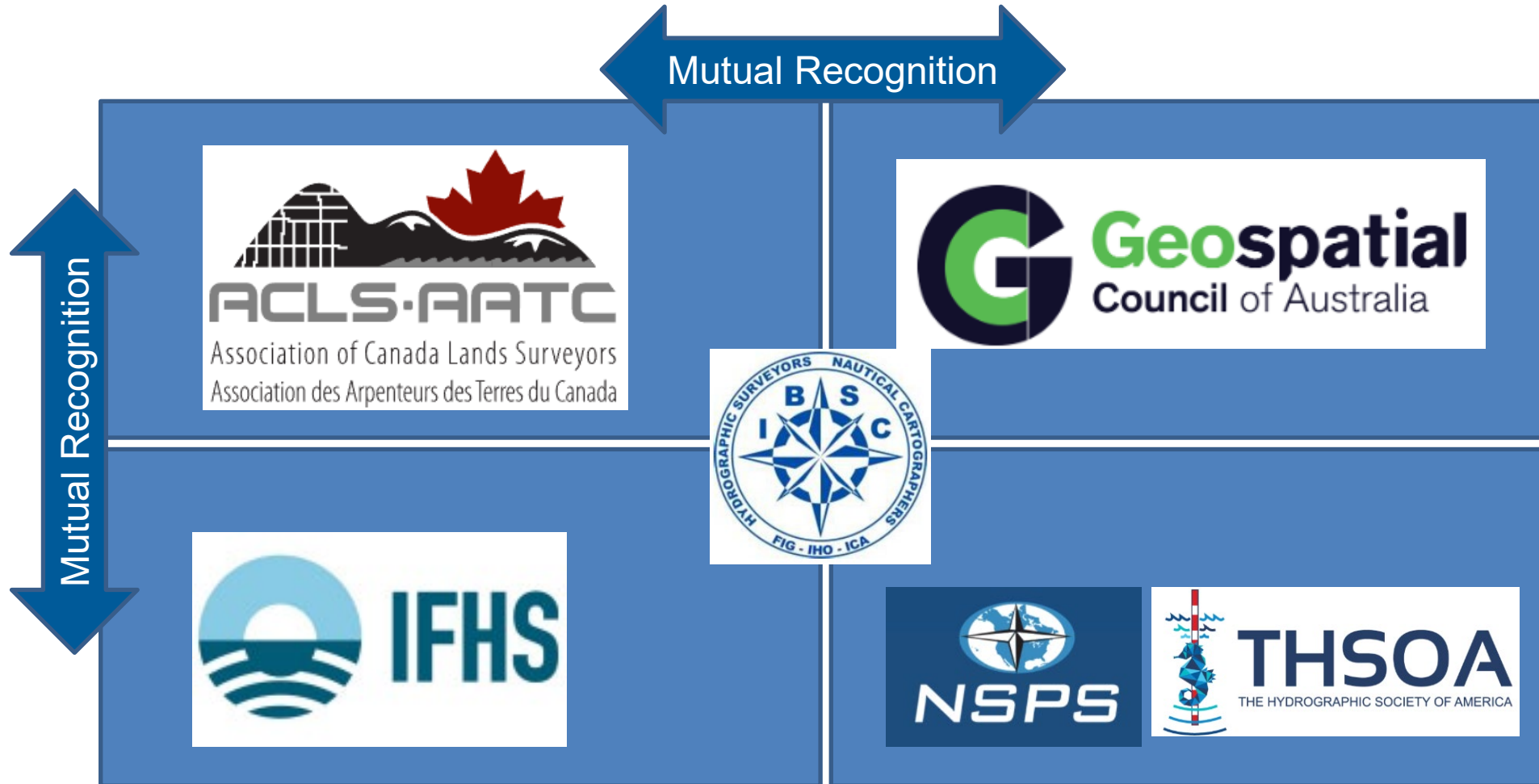
3.2 Surveyor in Charge (SIC)

The Contractor shall identify the SIC in their Survey Management Plan (SMP). The SIC is to be an AHSCP certified Level 1 Surveyor (CPHS1) and in date for Continual Professional Development (CPD) as per the list of certified Surveyors on the SSSI website. The SIC will be responsible for:

IBSC RECOGNIZED S-5 SCHEMES



HYDROGRAPHIC CERTIFICATION



EMPOWERMENT

From the IHO website: *Empowering Women in Hydrography*

While the number of women in the workforce has risen in recent decades, there remains an imbalance between men and women in leadership positions, and women are still underrepresented in many STEM subjects. Currently women qualified in hydrography represent 25% of the demographics, yet less than 10% of national hydrographers are women. As for IHO bodies, only 13% are chaired by women.

To try and change this, the IHO has launched a new project to “Empower Women in Hydrography” with the goal of raising awareness about career opportunities in hydrography, and to increase the number of women in leadership positions.

EMPOWERMENT

EQUAL
OPPORTUNITIES

BUILDING
CONFIDENCE

RECOGNITION &
CREDIBILITY

NETWORKING
OPPORTUNITIES

CREATES ROLE MODELS

TO CONCLUDE

A Natural Progression: Certification completes the journey from education to professional recognition.

Professional Development: Certification builds a skilled network of professionals committed to the industry and to lifelong learning.

Industry Standards: Certification ensures hydrographic offices are getting reliable bathymetric survey information from within and from contracted parties.

Global Recognition: When the certification schemes are mutually recognized, this will maintain consistency within training and professional development of hydrographers.

Empowerment: Certification supports capacity building, encourages diversity and inspires a new generation of women to pursue hydrography as a career.



THANK YOU

