Information on the mandatory use of Inland ECDIS as of 29.06.2024

Inland ECDIS is a Europe-wide standardized system for the display of electronic inland navigation charts and related information (Electronic Chart Display and Information System) and is regulated by the Implementing Regulation 2018/1973/EU.

According to § 4.07 No. 11 and § 60.02 paragraph 3 of the Waterways Traffic Regulations (Wasserstraßen-Verkehrsordnung, BGBl. II Nr. 31/2019 last amended by BGBl. II No. 204/2023), vessels, except for

a) vessels in convoys, except the vessel that provides the main propulsion,

b) small craft,

c) vessels without their own propulsion,

d) ferries,

must be equipped with Inland ECDIS devices connected to Inland AIS devices as of 29.06.2024.

The identity and position data of other vessels transmitted via Inland AIS can only be used for nautical decisions of the skipper during the voyage if this information is displayed on the inland electronic navigation chart in the Inland ECDIS device, since e.g. planning an encounter on the basis of coordinate information is not possible. The display of Notices to Skippers in the Inland ECDIS increases traffic safety too, because Notices to Skippers which are valid for a certain place are not easily overlooked or forgotten. The introduction of a carriage requirement for Inland ECDIS, which has existed e.g. for German inland waterways for several years, therefore contributes to increasing the safety of navigation on waterways.

Inland ECDIS equipment shall be approved for navigation mode (list of approved equipment on https://listes.cesni.eu/2050-en.html) or comply with the minimum requirements for Inland ECDIS in information mode according to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1973 on the technical specifications for the electronic chart display and related information system for inland navigation (Inland ECDIS), OJ No. L 324, 19.12.2018 p. 1. Inland ECDIS equipment in information mode is offered by e.g. Periskal Group, Tresco Engineering, Noordersoft, JFS Electronic, Stentec and OpenCPN:

Manufacturer	Product	Version
Tresco Engineering bvba	Alphachart	from 16.1.x.x
Tresco Engineering bvba	Navigis	from 16.1.x.x
NoorderSoft b.v.	PCNavigo	from Version 2022
Periskal bvba	Inland ECDIS Viewer	10.0.14
Argonav GmbH	RADARpilot 720°	from 4.6.1-15
JFS Electronic Sturzel + Co. AG	Precision Navigator II Informationsmodus	from 2.8
Stentec Navigation	WinGPS INLAND	from 5.21.0.0
JFS Electronic Sturzel + Co. AG	Swiss Radar IndicatorPlus	from 2.8
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The standardized electronic inland navigation charts (Inland ENCs) are provided free of charge in Austria on https://doris.bmk.gv.at and are updated continuously. For vessels in international traffic, the Inland ENCs from Austria as well as those of most other European countries are available free of charge https://www.eurisportal.eu/service/enc. Most manufacturers of Inland ECDIS equipment also offer an integrated chart service to their customers.

The correct input of dimensions of vessels and convoys in Inland AIS now becomes even more important. The display of wrong dimensions of oncoming vessels or convoys on the Inland ECDIS could be misleading. It should be noted that Inland AIS contains both data fields with lower accuracy for the dimensions of seagoing vessels and data fields with dm accuracy for the inland area. For lock planning the more accurate dimension data are used, but for the display on the Inland ECDIS equipment the maritime dimension data are used. Therefore, special care must be taken that the dimensions are entered correctly in BOTH ACCURACIES.