

On Becoming a Certified Hydrographer

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This paper presents a path for individuals aspiring to be hydrographic surveying specialists and professionals and wish to acquire hydrographic certification under the IHSC. The IHCS ensures hydrographers have the appropriate skill, knowledge, experience, and continuous professional development to meet contemporary demands on a global basis.

The IHCS applies Fédération Internationale des Géomètres (FIG) International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and International Cartographic Association (ICA) competency standards for hydrographic surveyors by confirming evidence of the following criteria:

- academic study
- relevant employment history and work experience,
- continuous professional development

Three tracks to certification have been identified: Fast, Medium, and Slow. The paper addresses procedures for candidates who have graduated from a recognized Category S-5A and Category S-5B academic programs. In addition, a roadmap is presented to graduates from other institutes that have a focus on ocean mapping such as the Canadian Ocean Mapping Research and Education Network (COMREN).