

From: IALA
To: IEC

C02-12.3.1
(DTEC4-15.2.2)

LIAISON NOTE

Request regarding redistribution of the SECOM OpenAPI specification (Annex A of IEC 63173-2)

1 INTRODUCTION

Many IALA member states and organisation have started to implement digital maritime services based on international technical specifications, conduct tests of these services, and provide feedback to the relevant international organisations. One of IALA's key activities is to support international efforts to advance digital solutions in the maritime domain.

2 DISCUSSION

IALA members are contributing to the development and testing of software and systems that implement maritime digital services based on international standards. These efforts rely on the availability of machine-readable standardised schemas, such as the SECOM OpenAPI specification defined in Annex 1 of IEC 63173-2, which provides the technical specification required for the implementation of a standardised Application Programming Interface (API) used for the exchange of maritime data.

The OpenAPI specification is essential for ensuring interoperability and harmonisation across different implementations and services. To support collaborative and open development, it is important that such specifications are accessible and clearly licensed for redistribution – particularly when used in open-source software projects. It is also expected that open-source implementation will increase adoption and visibility of IEC standards.

In this context, IEC 63173-2, in Annex A.1 refers to the CIRM website for the public distribution of the OpenAPI specification. However, under the referenced URL (<https://cirm.org/secom>), the files are not available anymore. Furthermore, to ensure legal clarity and broader adoption, formal confirmation from IEC is needed regarding the terms under which the OpenAPI specification may be redistributed.

3 ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that IEC:

1. Clarifies that it does not assert legal ownership over the OpenAPI specification (Annex A of IEC 63173-2) in a way that would restrict its redistribution as part of open-source projects (e.g. via GitHub); or
2. Explicitly permits the redistribution of the schema under a recognised permissive open-source licence such as the Apache License 2.0, which would allow IALA members and others to use the schema in support of harmonisation and interoperability; and
3. Ensures the availability of the referenced files in the standard via the CIRM website (<https://cirm.org/secom>).