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IALA

Outcomes from VTS Committee (Oct 2018)

The 45th IALA VTS Committee meeting was held from 1–5 October 2018 at IALA's headquarters in Paris, France.

This was the first meeting for the 2018–22 Work Programme, attracting a record attendance—96 delegates from 27 countries and four sister organisations.

Key outcomes include:

1. Revision of IMO Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines on Vessel Traffic Services

Australia led a breakout group that completed the first draft for a revised/new resolution. This is a major step forward in preparing a modernised resolution to provide a clear and concise framework to operate VTS globally.

IALA, through the expertise of the VTS Committee, is taking a coordinating role in preparing a revised/new resolution for submission to the IMO in late 2019.

2. IALA Standard 1040 (Vessel Traffic Services)

Several new/revised recommendations and guidelines were completed and are scheduled to come into effect in December.

These include:

Recommendation R0127 on VTS Operations recommends competent authorities and VTS authorities contribute to precise and unambiguous delivery of VTS operations by implementing the provisions of the recommendation and its associated guidelines including:

- provision of VTS Information Service (INS) Traffic Organisation Service (TOS) and Navigational Assistance Service (NAS)
- use of decision support tools for VTS personnel
- setting and measuring VTS objectives
- staffing levels at VTS centres
- marine casualty/incident reporting and recording, including near-miss situations as it relates to VTS.

The recommendation is a normative provision and must be observed to claim compliance with IALA Standard 1040 Vessel Traffic Services.

Guideline G1141 on Operational Procedures for VTS while technically a new guideline contains much of the content of the previous Recommendation V-127 on Operational Procedures for VTS (including minor editorial changes).

The guideline provides a framework for implementing operational procedures in a globally harmonised manner.

Guideline G1045 on Staffing Levels at VTS Centres was a revision/update of the existing guideline to ensure it continues to provide effective guidance to assist authorities in determining appropriate staffing levels for a VTS centre.

Guideline G1142 on the provision of Local Port Services Local services are often introduced to coordinate services within port areas. They disseminate information to vessels, berth or terminal operators and other stakeholders where government/s are of the opinion that the volume of traffic, or the degree of risk, does not justify exercising their rights under SOLAS to establish a VTS.

They generally involve voice communication between the entity ashore and the mariner. As a result, it is important mariners are in no doubt as to whether they are communicating with a VTS, which they expect to provide all the associated functions of a VTS, or whether they are communicating with an entity providing only information concerned with the management of the port or facility.

The guideline was prepared to assist governments/competent authorities ensure the difference between VTS and local port services is clearly communicated to mariners, allied services and other stakeholders.

3. Other guidance documentation

A *Reference document on Standards, Recommendations and Guidelines relating to VTS* was approved for release on the IALA website.

The document provides a concise framework for referencing VTS related guidance documents and their links to normative recommendations under the suite of IALA standards.

The document will be maintained/updated by IALA with the approval of new or amended guidance documents relating to VTS.

Upcoming events

IALA will be holding the next VTS Committee meeting in Busan, Korea, back-to-back with a workshop on Harmonising the Delivery of VTS Voice Communications.

The respective dates are:

| 19–22 Feb 2019 | Workshop on Harmonising the Delivery of VTS Voice Communications |
| 25 Feb–1 Mar 2019 | 45th IALA VTS Committee meeting |

Further information is available at:

https://www.iala-aism.org/product-category/calendar/

VTS Working Group

The 23rd national VTS Working Group meeting was hosted by the Port Authority of NSW in Sydney from 23–24 October 2018.

Key outcomes included:

- a review of Phase 1 of the VTS Exchange Project (eg a trial of the automated exchange of vessel deficiency and defect information between VTS authorities). Members concluded that the trial had been very successful and Phase 1 could now be considered operational.

- a successful workshop session contributed to the development of the curriculum for an Australian training course for the revalidation of VTS qualifications.

- agreement to contribute to the development of guidance material currently being prepared by IALA. In particular this includes:

  – new guidance associated with VTS voice communications (phraseology)

  – VTS awareness for navigating officers and the promulgation of VTS requirements of a VTS to mariners and

  – the update of guidance on the training and certification of VTS personnel.

- a review of the first draft revision/update of the IMO resolution for VTS mentioned above. Members concluded that the draft provides an excellent start to achieving a clear and concise high-level framework for the implementation and operation of VTS.
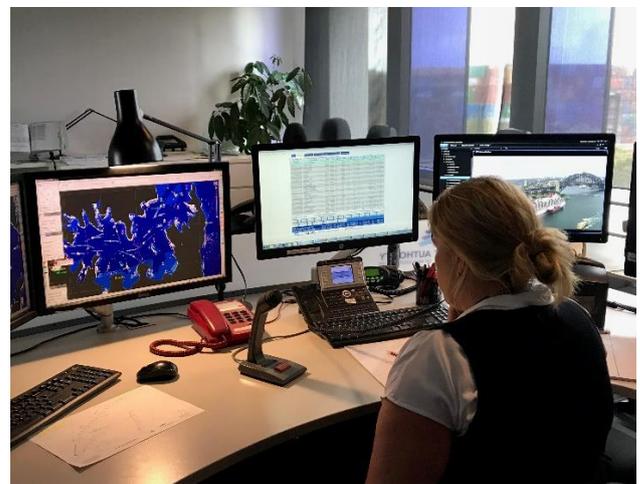
Sydney VTS work station

The next meeting of the Working Group will be hosted by Pilbara Ports Authority in Port Hedland in 2019 (dates to be confirmed shortly).

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