VTS Newsletter

Inside this issue:

- VTS Working Group
- Compliance and Enforcement
- IALA Update
- International VTS Symposium

VTS Working Group

The next meeting of the VTS Working Group is being hosted by Maritime Safety Queensland 27-28 April at Smartship Australia, Brisbane.

A key focus for the meeting will be workshop sessions on:

- Training and simulation
- Objectives and Measures to Evaluate the Effectiveness of VTS
- The revision of IMO Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines for VTS being undertaken by IALA as part of its 2014-18 work programme.

Compliance and Enforcement

The VTS Compliance and Enforcement Framework was released in March. The Policy supports a graduated approach to compliance and enforcement, recognising that both compliance mechanisms and enforcement mechanisms are necessary to provide an effective and flexible regulatory system.

The Framework sets out the arrangements for:

- Complying with Australia's international obligations under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 (SOLAS) with regards to establishing a policy with respect to violations of VTS regulatory requirements and ensure that this policy is consistent with national law; and

- Dealing with violations of VTS regulatory requirements, in accordance with Commonwealth law and the AMSA Compliance and Enforcement Policy.

A copy is available at http://www.amsa.gov.au/navigation/services/vessel-traffic-services/vts-in-Australia/compliance/index.asp

The VTS Working Group has been instrumental in developing the framework and AMSA would like to recognise the efforts of members and their agencies.

IALA Update

The 41st IALA VTS Committee meeting was held 07 – 11 March 2016. Key outcomes from VTS41 include:

Model Course on Revalidation Process for VTS Qualifications and Certification

The Model Course on Revalidation Process for VTS Qualifications and Certification was completed and submitted to Council for approval.

AMSA and members of the Australian VTS Working Group have viewed the development of guidance to maintain and improve the ongoing performance of VTSOs though the revalidation of their qualifications to be extremely important. AMSA, with input from the VTS Working Group, made significant contributions to its development including:

- Successful intervention at IALA Council 59 proposing for the guidance to be developed as a Model Course as opposed to a Guideline to ensure that revalidation is undertaken by training providers authorised by the competent authority and not simply a form of OJT.

- Contributions to the development of the Model Course (input papers, revised/edited versions of the draft

---

Contact details

Neil Trainor
Principal Advisor, Vessel Traffic Services
Ph: 07 3001 6822
Mob: 0408 559 849
Email: neil.trainor@amsa.gov.au

For further information

www.amsa.gov.au

guidance) which have been accepted and reflected in the Model Course.

IALA VTS Questionnaire

A web based application for conducting the IALA VTS Questionnaire was reviewed and the Secretariat was requested to release the Questionnaire on the IALA website. The Questionnaire is scheduled for release on the IALA website in April and the results are to be presented at the VTS Symposium in August 2016.

Review of IMO Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services

A working paper identifying high-level potential amendments, changes and additions to the existing Resolution was prepared. Noting that this proposal represents significant change, members were invited to consider the working paper intersessionally and to provide comment for VTS42.

A key component of the paper is a proposal that the existing functions associated with the three types of service defined in the existing Resolution (INS, TOS and NAS) should be taken forward as a range of functions that a VTS might be expected to provide to achieve the required objectives, rather than as three discrete services.

The key elements behind this proposal include:

- The framework provided by the types of service as defined in the current Resolution continues to cause confusion with both shore authorities and mariners.

- The establishment and on-going operation of a VTS is a considerable investment (equipment, staff, training, communications, etc) and after undertaking such a major investment it is considered most unlikely that a VTS would not manage the vessel traffic in its area of responsibility.

- A VTS provides information, manages vessel traffic and oversees the navigational safety from a VTS Centre in which the effects are monitored by appropriately trained and certificated personnel on a continuous basis. These functions are delivered through the provision of information, warnings, advice and instruction for which all VTSs should be capable.

- Evidence suggests that, irrespective of the type(s) of service promulgated, the VTS invariably delivers elements of INS, TOS and NAS to achieve its objectives.

It is anticipated that development of an unplanned output submission for IMO Resolution A.857(20) will commence as the paper matures, drawing on the compelling needs identified in the process of updating the working paper.

World VTS Guide

IALA is withdrawing IALA Recommendation V-136 on Participation in the World VTS Guide following a recent decision by the World VTS Guide Advisory Board, at its meeting on the 3 March 2016, to close the Guide on 1 July 2016.

International VTS Symposium

The 13th International VTS (Vessel Traffic Service) Symposium will be at the Kuala Lumpur Convention & Exhibition Centre (KLCC) on 8-12 August 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The theme of the 2016 Symposium is "Sustainable Safe Navigation", where participants will be presenting and discussing the current challenges and opportunities both in VTS and Domain Awareness. Planned themes for the Symposium include:

- The role of VTS in Maritime Domain Awareness,

- The role of VTS Operations in Port/Waterway Efficiency,

- VTS Beyond Territorial Seas and in Polar Regions,

- Future trends and technological development of this sector,

- VTS and e-navigation,

- Professional competencies,

- Information Exchange & Management, Innovations and

- Improvements in VTS Operations.

Further information is available at http://www.vts-symposium2016.my/