



Inside this issue:

- MSQ – 8 VTS ports
- Qualifications and Training
- IALA Update
- International VTS Symposium
- VTS Working Group

MSQ – 8 VTS ports

Maritime Safety Queensland has been appointed as a VTS authority under the provisions of the Navigation Act 2012 for eight Queensland ports.

VTS Authorities and their respective VTS areas now includes:

VTS Authority	VTS
Port of Melbourne Corporation	Melbourne
Pilbara Ports Authority – Dampier	Dampier
Pilbara Ports Authority – Port Hedland	Port Hedland
Maritime Safety Queensland	Brisbane Gladstone Hay Point Mackay Abbot Point Townsville Cairns Weipa REEFVTS - Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait VTS
<p>Note: Further information regarding authorised VTS authorities in Australia can be found at - www.amsa.gov.au/navigation/services/vessel-traffic-services/vts-in-Australia/index.asp</p>	

Qualifications and Training

AMSA has released guidance on the qualifications and training of Vessel Traffic Service Operators (VTSOs) in Australia, specifically focussing on when a person should be considered capable of carrying out the duties of a VTSO.

The guidance was developed in consultation with the Australian VTS Working Group (VTSWG) and incorporated a series of workshops which highlighted a divergence of perspectives as to when a person should be considered capable of carrying out the duties of a VTSO, taking into account the guidance provided by IMO Resolution A.857(20) and associated IALA Recommendations and Guidelines.

The VTSWG is a consultative group that facilitates the communication and information sharing between VTS authorities and key stakeholders and enables a common understanding of the delivery of vessel traffic services across Australia.

A copy is available at:

<http://www.amsa.gov.au/navigation/services/vessel-traffic-services/index.asp>

IALA Update

The 62nd session of the IALA Council was held 20 - 24 June 2016, in Lisbon, Portugal.

Key outcomes related to VTS include:

- **VTS Manual 2016** - The 6th edition of the VTS Manual was approved and will be launched at the VTS Symposium in Kuala Lumpur in August.
- **New IALA Model Course V-103/5** - A new IALA Model Course on the Revalidation

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Process for VTS Qualification and Certification was approved.

The model course is intended to provide guidance to Competent Authorities, Accredited VTS Training Organisations and VTS Authorities on how to maintain and improve the quality of performance of their VTSOs, by means of training.

- **Workshop on Common Phraseology and Procedures for VTS Communications** – An IALA workshop on VTS Communications (Indonesia, 20 – 24 February 2017) was approved.

The key aim of the workshop is to fast track the establishment of current and future stand-alone communication procedures for VTS to facilitate clear and unambiguous transfer of information.

- **Withdrawal of IALA Guideline 1056 on the Establishment of VTS Radar Services** – A recent review of IALA Recommendation V-128 resulted in the approval of a modified Recommendation V-128 on the Operational and Technical Performance of VTS Systems together with an associated Guideline 1111 on the Preparation of Operational and Technical Performance Requirements for VTS Systems.

The radar section provided in Guideline 1111 now supersedes the guidance provided in IALA Guideline 1056 on the Establishment of VTS Radar Services (June 2007) and, as a result, 1056 has been withdrawn.

- **Withdrawal of IALA Recommendation V-136 on Participation in the World VTS Guide** – In March 2016 IALA was informed by the World VTS Guide Advisory Board that the guide would close on 1 July 2016.

The guide had served its purpose for over 20 years but it was considered the information is now available elsewhere.

As a result IALA has withdrawn Recommendation V-136 on Participation in the World VTS Guide.

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/>

VTS Working Group

The next meeting of the VTS Working Group is being hosted by Australian Hydrographic Service and Port Authority of NSW - Port Kembla in Wollongong 20-21 September 2016.

A key focus for the meeting will be sessions on:

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



Figure 1. VTS Working Group (April 2016)