



IALA MODEL COURSE L1.3 - USE OF THE SIMPLIFIED IALA RISK ASSESSMENT (SIRA) METHOD

Language: English | In-person from the 16 – 18 November 2026 in Sierra Leone | For further information, contact the IALA World-Wide Academy (WWA): academy@iala.int

INTRODUCTION

The IALA Risk Management Toolbox is a set of tools developed by the International Organisation for Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA) to conduct maritime risk assessments. The toolbox includes five tools: **IWRAP, PAWSA MK II, SIRA, IRMAS and Simulation.**

The IALA WWA provides training based on the “Use of the IALA Risk Management Toolbox” model course. This training is designed for individuals responsible for overseeing waterway management as required by SOLAS Chapter V Regulations 12 and 13.

The IALA WWA will run a training course focusing on the SIRA method; simplified qualitative method for assessing the volume of traffic and degree of risk and identifying potential risk mitigation options to reduce the risks to acceptable levels. It is particularly applicable where good-quality AIS data, on which IWRAP depends, is unavailable or where access to individuals with the necessary experience level in the risk categories PAWSA uses is limited.

COURSE CONTENT AND TRAINING DELIVERY

The training covers the fundamentals of the International Maritime Organization’s Formal Safety Assessment and the ISO 31000 standard on risk management. It also provides an overview of the IALA Risk Management Toolbox, practical application of the SIRA method, and guidance on stakeholder engagement and management.

The course combines presentations, case studies, facilitated discussions and a practical group exercise applying the SIRA method to a selected waterway.

GOAL

After completing this course, you will be able to apply the SIRA method to assess and manage navigational risks and use the findings to support evidence-based decisions on Marine Aids to Navigation (AtoN) and waterway management.

COURSE TARGET AUDIENCE

The course is intended for professionals involved in the safe and efficient movement of vessels, including representatives of Vessel Traffic Services (VTS), AtoN providers, port authorities, pilotage services, waterway management organisations, allied services, marine spatial planning authorities, maritime regulators, training organisations and consultancies.

Participants should have a good command of English and be comfortable using Microsoft Excel.

HARDWARE-SOFTWARE AND DATA

A laptop with a copy of Microsoft Excel.

VENUE AND HOTEL

The training venue and nearby hotels will be identified and shared in due course.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Day 1 – Monday, 16 November 2026

Time	Session
09:00–09:30	Opening ceremony, introductions, group photo and welcome from the host organisation
09:30–10:00	Introduction to IALA
10:00–10:30	What is risk?
10:30–11:00	SOLAS obligations relevant to navigational risk management
11:00–11:30	Coffee break
11:30–12:30	Introduction to the risk management process
12:30–13:00	Introduction to the IALA Risk Management Toolbox
13:00–14:00	Lunch
14:00–15:30	Introduction to the SIRA method using case studies
15:30–16:00	Coffee break
16:00–17:00	Introduction to developing the SIRA workbook using a case study

Day 2 – Tuesday, 17 November 2026

Time	Session
09:00–10:00	Role of stakeholders and facilitation of the SIRA process
10:00–10:30	Factual overview of the case-study area in Sierra Leone — <i>optional and subject to the availability of credible information</i>
10:30–11:00	Coffee break
11:00–12:00	Participants begin developing the SIRA workbook for the case-study area
12:00–13:00	Lunch
13:00–14:30	Participants continue developing the SIRA workbook
14:30–15:00	Coffee break
15:00–17:00	Groups present their SIRA findings, followed by facilitated discussion and feedback

Day 3 – Wednesday, 18 November 2026

Time	Session
09:00–10:00	Groups complete their SIRA presentations and discussion
10:00–11:00	Reporting and communicating the SIRA process and findings
11:00–11:30	Coffee break
11:30–12:00	Summary of how the SIRA process supports relevant international conventions
12:00–13:00	Lunch
13:00–14:30	Additional course content or practical activity if required
14:30–15:00	Coffee break
15:00–16:00	Additional course content or practical activity if required
16:00–17:00	Course review, closing remarks, certificate presentation and group photo