Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-2) ARM12-

Input paper for the following Committee(s): check as appropriate Purpose of paper:

**X** ARM **□** ENG **□** PAP **x** Input

**□** ENAV **X** VTS **□** Information

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Technical Domain / Task Number 2 ………………………………

Author(s) / Submitter(s) IALA Secretariat…………….

Draft Recommendation on Marine Aids to Navigation awareness for navigators

# Summary

The 2010 Manila amendments to the annex to the International Convention on Standards for Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW) states, inter-alia, that:

* 1. deck officers should have the ability to determine the ship’s position by use of aids to navigation, including lighthouses, beacons and buoys.
  2. deck officers should attain knowledge, understanding and proficiency in, inter-alia:

reporting in accordance with VTS procedures;

communication with VTS centres;

voyage planning and navigation taking account of VTS areas;

manoeuvring in VTS areas; and

that navigation and watchkeeping simulation should realistically simulate VTS communication procedures between ship and shore.

As a part of its 2018-2022 Work Programme the VTS Committee was tasked with preparing a Guideline on VTS awareness for Deck Officers. This task was completed by the VTS Committee and published as IALA Guideline *G1149 on VTS training for deck officers*.

In addition, other existing IALA recommendations and guidelines provide wide ranging information on the use, functions and operation of Marine Aids to Navigation and VTS which may assist in the fulfilment of the obligations under the STCW Code as well as assisting navigators in gaining an enhanced level of awareness of their use, benefits and capabilities.

# Discussion

Following the publication of IALA Guideline G1149, the VTS Committee identified that there was not a suitable recommendation that the new Guideline may be easily or appropriately associated with.

An appropriate recommendation is required when considering that the target audience for the Guideline, and potentially other relevant recommendations and guidelines, is likely to consist of maritime administrations responsible for the implementation of the STCW Convention, maritime training institutes, organisations representing navigators and other parties concerned with the navigation of vessels.

As such, the Secretariat proposed the preparation of a new informative Recommendation on *Marine Aids to Navigation and VTS awareness for navigators* which may, in turn, be associated with IALA Standard *1050 on Training and Certification*.

Considering the general requirements of the STCW Code, the draft Recommendation seeks to recognise that:

1. That IALA Recommendation R1001 provides the framework for the implementation of the IALA Maritime Buoyage System which includes the functions and characteristics of lighthouses, beacons and buoys.
2. That IALA Guideline G1149 on VTS training for deck officers contains recommendations that complement the standard of competence provided in the STCW Code for deck officers in order to enhance their understanding of VTS.
3. That other IALA recommendations and guidelines provide wide ranging information on the use, functions and operation of Marine Aids to Navigation and VTS which may assist navigators in gaining an enhanced level of awareness of their use, benefits and capabilities.
4. That such an enhanced awareness of the capabilities of Marine Aids to Navigation and VTS by navigators will contribute to fostering the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels.

The draft Recommendation, within the ‘recommends’ section, suggests that National Members bring its content to the attention of the target audience described above and invites maritime training institutes to incorporate Marine Aids to Navigation and VTS training activities in the mandatory national training programmes for deck officers developed in accordance with the provisions of the STCW Code and be reflected in examination and assessment.

The draft Recommendation seeks to promote, in particular, Recommendation *R1001 on the IALA Maritime Buoyage System* and Guideline G1149 on *VTS training for deck officers* to assist all types of navigator in maximising their usage of marine aids to navigation. Furthermore, the draft Recommendation also draws attention to other recommendations and guidelines in general terms.

Additionally, the content of G1149 will also be brought to the attention of the IMO Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW 7/15/1) and it is considered that a further input paper may be submitted to relevant IMO Sub-Committees/Committee on similar subjects to promote marine aids to navigation awareness to the navigator and maritime community.

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to:

1. Approve the draft IALA Recommendation on Marine Aids to Navigation and VTS awareness for navigators.

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-3)