



Agenda item	14
	Requests for advice from other IALA bodies
Author(s) / Submitter(s)	Secretariat

## **World VTS Guide**

### **Background**

The IALA World VTS Guide has been designed to give Masters of ships, navigators, and interested persons, clear and concise diagrammatic and written information regarding the navigational requirements of the VTS Centres of the world. Particular attention has been paid to communications requirements as the World VTS Guide has been designed to be used in close proximity to the on-board VHF set.

VTS systems operated by participating Authorities are described in near uniform format, whether the systems are coastal, harbour or riverine. Associated services are also described, but only so far as they concern communications and procedural requirements. Commercial considerations are not described in detail.

The guide can be seen on <http://www.worldvtsguide.org/>

At the last meeting of the World VTS Guide Advisory Board the 11 June 2015 there was a discussion on SOLAS requirements which, it was thought, impose an obligation to place VTS information to be published on the World VTS Guide - IMO Resolution A.857(20).

Such an obligation or link between SOLAS and the Guide would be most helpful to get the different authorities and services to publish their information on the Guide.

### **Discussion**

The key document is IMO Resolution A.857(20) dated 3 December 1997. A.857(20) has considerable force as it is an IMO Assembly Resolution that has been agreed by the IMO Members at the highest level. So it is difficult to argue against that.

Also relevant is MSC/Circ.586/Rev.1 which modifies the interpretation of A.857(20) by announcing the availability of the Guide on the internet.

Copies of both are attached for your convenience.

The World VTS Guide is referenced three times in the Resolution, in the attached version these are highlighted in green for clarity.

The obligation to publish information in the Guide does not replace the obligation for maritime administrations to publish information in general, for example in the Admiralty List of Radio Signals, Volume 6 (ALRS). It should be noted that the specific purpose of the Guide is to provide Shipmasters and others with standardised VTS information, in an easily accessible and understandable format, necessary to enter a VTS area and subsequently to comply with its requirements, thereby optimising

efficiency and enhancing safety. The ALRS may contain much more information and make it difficult for a Shipmaster to pinpoint the VTS information he needs.

### **Action requested from the Panel**

The Secretariat asks the LAP to

1. Advise if there exist an obligation to place VTS information on the World VTS Guide and/or
2. This “legal” obligation can be used to encourage authorities to participate in the Guide.

### **Supporting documents**

- A.857(20) – input paper LAP15-14.2
- MSC/Circ.586/Rev.1 – input paper LAP15-14.3