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| From: VTS Committee | VTS47-13.2.3 |
| To: Legal Advisory Panel (LAP) | 27 September 2019 |

LIAISON NOTE

Review and update of VTS Manual 2020

# INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the VTS Manual is to provide a concise guide that provides an introduction and overview of Vessel Traffic Services and to facilitate the implementation and operation of VTS in a globally consistent manner. The VTS Manual is normally updated every four years and is presented at the IALA VTS Symposium.

The VTS Committee has established a Coordination Group to coordinate the preparation for a new edition of the VTS Manual and to progress task 1.4.1 “Update and publish the VTS Manual and develop related procedures for its future management”. This revision is due to be published in 2020 at the IALA VTS-ENAV Symposium in Rotterdam.

The terms of reference for the Coordination Group states that the Manual should be prepared in a manner that:

* Is clear, concise, consistent, and accurate.
* Can be readily updated to reflect new or amended IALA Recommendations and Guidelines related to VTS.
* Assists those who are in any way involved with the policy for provision, operation and effectiveness of VTS, including those with management responsibility at national level and those who deliver services to the mariner.
* Provides a high-level reference for further detailed study.
* Supports publishing in both hard copy and electronic format.

# DISCUSSION

The Manual is not intended as a replacement or substitute for IALA Recommendations and Guidelines, but to serve as a helpful reference document to assist understanding and conformance with the IALA Standards related to VTS.

Beside the above, other useful information such as international Conventions and Resolutions are mentioned in *Chapter 4 Regulatory and Legal Framework*. However, some text of this chapter has been lifted from the present VTS Manual (2016) and the VTS Committee would appreciate if LAP could review the text and propose amendments so that it is updated with the latest information and references.

# ACTION REQUESTED

The Legal Advisory Panel is requested to review chapter 4 of the VTS Manual and provide advice and comments to the VTS Committee, as appropriate.