

Agenda item: 6.4

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## IALA Dictionary and IALA Guidance Documents

### 1 SUMMARY

#### 1.1 Purpose of the document

- Advise PAP of the VTS Committee's concerns regarding the recent policy decision to remove definitions from IALA documents (i.e. Guidelines, Recommendations, etc) with the development of the IALA Dictionary
- Request consideration be given to keeping definitions relevant to individual guidance documents within those documents. That is, the Dictionary provides the definitive source of definitions but definitions relevant to individual guidance documents are available within those documents.

### 2 BACKGROUND

Concern was expressed at the 42nd session of IALA VTS Committee in August 2016 regarding the policy to remove definitions from IALA documents (i.e. Guidelines, Recommendations, etc) and the likely impact on the readability and understanding of the documents.

### 3 DISCUSSION

The VTS Committee members recognise the importance of the IALA dictionary as the definitive source of definitions. However, the Committee is of the firm view that the readability of VTS related Recommendations and Guidelines may be adversely impacted by not having the definitions included, as applicable, with individual documents.

Noting that Competent Authorities and Contracting Governments are obliged to give effect to these documents, invariably in domestic law, it is important that definitions are maintained within the document to negate the need for stakeholders to always have a copy of the dictionary at hand.

Many countries do not consider this recent policy decision to be practical and would prefer to see the IALA Dictionary be used to populate the requisite definitions within individual guidance documents as a means to ensure consistency in the definitions between documents.

### 4 ACTION REQUESTED

The PAP is requested to reconsider the policy that definitions should be removed from IALA documents and action as appropriate.