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| From: VTS Committee | VTS40-12.1.5 |
| To: IALA Council | 22 October 2015 |

Liaison Note

Guideline on Preparing for IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS)

# Introduction

The VTS Committee was tasked to prepare a Guideline on Preparing IALA Members for IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) as regards Vessel Traffic Services. This work commenced in VTS 38 and was completed at VTS 40.

Vessel Traffic Services implemented by a Competent authority are subject to IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) in view of the fact that all IMO audits from 1 January 2016 will be mandatory and should be arranged and carried out in line with the framework and procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme and using the IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code) as the audit standard.

# Summary of draft proposal

The aim of this document is to provide guidance for Contracting Governments and competent authorities to meet the objectives of an IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) with respect to the implementation and delivery of VTS. That is, to demonstrate they are fulfilling their responsibilities under the general provisions of treaty law and IMO conventions for promulgating laws and regulations. They are also responsible for taking all other steps which may be necessary to give full and complete effect to the International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Chapter V (Safety of Navigation) Regulation 12.

The Guideline consists of the following tools in the form of Annexes:

* Guidance for preparing for an audit (extracts from e.g. IMO Resolution A.1070(28) on IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code)
* Checklist for auditors (extract from IMO Circular Letter No. 3425 - Auditor’s Manual for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme pertaining to VTS)
* Audit checklist for the assessment of a VTS (extract from IALA Guideline No. 1101 on Auditing and Assessing VTS (Annex A))
* Audit scheme (sequence of activities according to IMO Resolution A.1067(28) on the Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme, Appendix 3).

# Action requested

The IALA Council is requested to:

1. Consider the draft Guideline on Preparing for IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) on Vessel Traffic Services and approve as appropriate.