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| IALA Recommendation |

V-103

Standards for Training and Certification of VTS Personnel

Edition 2.2

Document date

Revisions to this IALA Document are to be noted in the table prior to the issue of a revised document.

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| Date | Page / Section Revised | Requirement for Revision |
| July 2005 | Entire document reformatted | Reformatting to meet IALA documentation standards |
| September 2009 | Entire document | Major revision and updating |
| December 2013 | Chapter 1.1 and 1.2 | Minor additions |
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THE IALA COUNCIL

**RECALLING** Article 8 of the IALA Constitution regarding the authority, duties and functions of the Council,

**NOTING** that the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended in 1995 (STCW Convention) contain regulations concerning training of ships’ personnel and the Seafarer’s Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code (STCW Code) contains specifications of minimum standard of competence for ships’ personnel,

**NOTING ALSO** that STCW 95 adopted Resolution 10 concerning Training of maritime pilots, vessel traffic personnel and maritime personnel employed on mobile offshore unit,

**NOTING FURTHER** that the International Maritime Organisation in Assembly Resolution A.857(20) on Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services:

* recommend that VTS Authorities be provided with sufficient staff, appropriately qualified, suitably trained and capable of performing the tasks required, taking into consideration the type and level of services to be provided;
* describe the skill and knowledge qualifications required by VTS Operators to provide vessel traffic services.

**RECOGNISING** that the 8th International Symposium on VTS (Rotterdam 1996) concluded that VTS Authorities should set standards for VTS Operators, in accordance with international guidelines and other relevant material,

**RECOGNISING ALSO** that VTS Authorities should provide facilities for training to those standards and institute measures to maintain those standards,

**RECOGNISING FURTHER** that following a request from the 8th International Symposium on VTS, IALA undertook to develop suitable training and certification standards for VTS Personnel,

**HAVING CONSIDERED** the advice of the Vessel Traffic Services Committee provided to Council at its 64th Session,

**ADOPTS** Recommendation V-103 Revision 2.2 on Standards for Training and Certification of VTS Personnel,

**INVITES** Members and marine aids to navigation authorities worldwide to implement the provisions of the Recommendation,

**RECOMMENDS** that VTS Authorities consider this Recommendation and its annex, and refer to the detailed information contained within IALA Guideline 1xxx on Standards for Training and Certification of VTS Personnel

**REQUESTS** the Vessel Traffic Services Committee to keep the Recommendation under review and to propose amendments as necessary.

ANNEX

Standards for Training and Certification of VTS Personnel

**1 GENERAL**

International shipping operations need a common approach and universally agreed professional standards and competence for the delivery of Vessel Traffic Services (VTS). The successful delivery of such services depends upon competent and experienced personnel to discharge the responsibilities of a VTS Authority. Recognising that VTS personnel are members of a profession whose principle interaction is with mariners and maritime pilots for the safe management of maritime traffic, their competence needs to reflect that professional responsibility.

The recruitment, selection and training of suitable personnel is a pre-requisite to the provision of professionally qualified personnel capable of contributing to safe and efficient marine operations. Such personnel will help to ensure that full and due regard is given to the diverse tasks inherent in VTS activities.

This Recommendation together with its associated guidelines and model courses sets out the training requirements and certification standards for VTS personnel. These should be implemented by National Members and other appropriate Authorities to ensure that uniform standards of procedures, practices and professional standards are applied by Vessel Traffic Services world-wide.

**2 OBJECTIVES**

Competent and / or VTS authorities are encouraged to adopt this IALA Recommendation together with the associated guidelines and model courses as the basis for mandatory training in a manner consistent with their domestic legal framework.

The objectives of this Recommendation are to provide a basis:

* for VTS Authorities when recruiting VTS personnel;
* for Model Courses to establish a training programme on the specific knowledge, skills and attitude requirements necessary to qualify VTS personnel;
* for the Accreditation and Approval of training organisations seeking to deliver Model Courses;
* to ensure that VTS personnel are trained and qualified to enable them to perform the tasks required;
* for maintaining a satisfactory level of operational performance through the systematic provision of a revalidation process for VTS personnel;
* to regularly assess the ability of VTS personnel to perform to established and recognised standards;
* for a structured career progression for VTS Personnel.

**3 RESPONSIBILITIES**

The following excerpts from IMO Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services are relevant to training:

In planning and establishing a VTS, the Government or the Competent Authority should:

* determine the services and level to which the services are to be provided by the VTS, having regard to the objectives of the VTS;
* ensure that the VTS Authority is provided with sufficient staff, appropriately qualified, suitably trained and capable of performing the tasks required, taking into consideration the type and level of services to be provided;
* establish appropriate qualifications and training requirements for VTS Operators (VTSO), taking into consideration the type and level of services to be provided;
* ensure that provisions for the training of VTS operators are available.

In operating a VTS the VTS Authority should:

* ensure that the standards set by the Competent Authority for types of service and operator qualifications and equipment are met;
* ensure that the VTS operations are harmonised with, where appropriate, ship reporting and routeing measures, aids to navigation, pilotage and port operations.