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Input paper for the following Committee(s): check as appropriate Purpose of paper:

**□**ARM **□**ENG **□**PAP **X** Input

**□**ENAV **X** VTS **□** Information

Agenda item [[2]](#footnote-2) 3

Technical Domain / Task Number 2 3.5.1

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Proposal for the Amendment to “VTS Awareness for Navigating Officers”

# Summary

This document introduces the amendment to *Draft Guideline on VTS Awareness for Navigation Officers*.

The aim of the Guideline is to:

• raise the VTS Awareness for the Navigation Officers through VTS training; and

• facilitate effective communications and exchange of information between the bridge team and VTS Operators.

## Purpose of the document

The purpose of this document is to provide input for the consideration of the VTS Committee in developing the *Draft Guideline on VTS Awareness for Navigation Officers (Edition 2.0)*.

## Related documents

Related documents include:

* *VTS46-13.3.10 Draft Guideline on VTS awareness for Navigation Officers(Edition 2)*
* *IMO Resolution A.857(20), Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services, November 1997*
* *VTS Committee Work Programme 2018 - 2022(as amended at Council 66), June 2018*
* *C69-11.4.3 Draft Guideline G1144 Promulgating the Requirements of a VTS to Mariners*

# Background

In order to effectively improve the safety and efficiency of ship navigation, safety of life at sea and reduce sea pollution accidents, China Maritime Safety Administration proposed the draft of the “VTS Awareness for Navigation Officers” (VTS 45-10.5.2) to VTS 45th meeting, and continuously concerned about this task and was devoted to the development of this task in VTS 45th and 46th meeting.

According to VTS Committee work programme 2018-2022, this task, which should be done in 46th meeting, delayed to 47th meeting for further discussion. Based on the working document formed at the 46th, China Maritime Safety Administration proposed relevant comments on the draft (Edition 2.0) according to the new development of the VTS, including the revision of IMO resolution A. 857(20).

# Discussion

In reviewing the draft Guideline, the following comments are provided for the Committee’s consideration:

## 1 Revision of “3.2 HOW TO OBTAIN VTS INFORMATION”

**Consideration:**

*Guidelines for Promulgation the Requirements of a VTS to Mariners – A VTS Users Guide Template* (G1144) was officially adopted by Council 69 in June 2019, and VTS authorities are envisaged to use this guideline to provide detailed information about requirements, radio frequencies, procedure and so on, in a concise and unified way.

**Advice:**

It is recommended that navigation officers should try to obtain the official “VTS Users Guide” from appropriate nautical publications or websites and add a footnote of G1144 to indicate the “VTS users Guide Template”.

## 2 Revision of “3.7 VTS PROCEDURE”

**Consideration:**

* *Recommendation on Operational Procedures for Vessel Traffic Services* (IALA Recommendation V-127) divides VTS procedures into internal procedures and external procedures. This part is inconsistent with the description in G1141 *Operational Procedures for Vessel Traffic Services*. The guideline applies to navigation officers, so the VTS procedures should focus on external procedures.
* The main content in this section is complying with IALA Guideline1089 *Provision of VTS Services (INS, TOS & NAS)*.

**Advice:**

* Based on the G1141, the VTS Procedures should be divided into regular procedures (pre-arrival information, entry into the VTS area, VTS area procedures, mooring, berthing, leaving the VTS area, etc.) and emergency procedures (collision, capsizing, sinking, stranding, fire, man over board, etc.). It is reasonable to add a new section “3.8 VTS Procedure” which includes the general introduction of internal and external procedures, and add a footnote to indicate the detailed information which can be obtained from G1141.
* The original title of Part 3.7 can be revised as “Provision of VTS Services”.

## Definition of “VTS Awareness for Navigation Officers”

**Consideration:**

A clear definition of “VTS awareness for navigation officers” has not been clarified in the existing draft. According to the survey, participants’ understanding of VTS awareness is quite different. In order to eliminate the deviation of navigation officers’ understanding of VTS awareness, according to the original intention of the guideline, a clear definition is needed.

**Advice:**

“VTS awareness for navigation officers” can be defined as “acknowledgement and perception of navigation officers to facilitate effective interaction and cooperation with the VTS, based on the understanding of the roles, functions, benefits, procedures and other information of VTS”.

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to consider the Recommendations in developing the *Draft Guideline on VTS awareness for Navigation Officers (Edition 2)*.

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary

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2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)