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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

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Task Number 2 Task 1.3.1

Author(s) / Submitter(s) Australian Maritime Safety Authority & IHMA

Develop a Guideline on VTS Voice Communications, Phrases / Phraseology

# Summary

This document introduces input paper *VTS47-3.1.15.1 Draft Guidelines on VTS Phraseology* for the Committees consideration in finalising the development of a Guideline on VTS Voice Communications, Phrases / Phraseology (Task 1.3.1).

## Purpose of the document

The purpose of this paper is to provide input for the consideration of the VTS Committee in completing Task 1.3.1 - Development of a Guideline on VTS Voice Communications, Phrases / Phraseology to:

* Facilitate clear, concise, and unambiguous communications that are timely and effective.
* Minimise misunderstanding of the intent of messages and reducing the time required for effective communication.
* Assist VTS Training organisations to incorporate the use of standard VTS phraseology into their course curriculums.

## Related documents

Related documents include:

* *VTS47-3.1.9 Proposal for the Amendment to the draft Guideline on VTS Voice Communications Phraseology relating to emergency scenarios*
* *VTS47-8.3.1 WP draft Guideline on VTS Voice Communications Phraseology task 1.3.1 (VTS46-13.3.2)*
* *VTS46-8.3.3 AMSA Input Paper - Draft Guideline on VTS Phraseology*
* *VTS46-8.2.5 WP WG1 Draft Guideline on VTS Voice Communication phraseology task 1.3.1 (VTS45-12.2.3*)

# Background

The development of guidance for VTS Communications commenced as part of the Committee’s 2014-2018 Work Programme, including:

* Task 1.3.1 - Produce a Recommendation / Guideline on VTS Communications.
* A Workshop on Common Phraseology and Procedures for VTS Communications in (Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia, 20 -4 February 2017) to:
  + Facilitate the exchange of best practices, ideas and knowledge amongst a wide range of VTS professionals and those from other sectors.
  + Provide the VTS Committee with proposals, concepts and examples of best practice to assist in the development of IALA documentation and associated material addressing the delivery of VTS communications with a view to improving its effectiveness in both routine communications and in developing situations.

In December 2017 IALA released:

* Recommendation R1012 ‐ VTS Communications - Inviting Members and Competent Authorities for Vessel Traffic Services to implement the provisions of the Recommendation and its associated guidelines on VTS communications to contribute to precise and unambiguous communications with the traffic by implementing harmonized and standardized procedures and technology.
* Guideline G1132 – VTS VHF Voice Communication - to ensure consistency amongst VTSOs when communicating on the VHF.

As part of the Committee’s 2018-2022 Work programme the development of a Guideline on VTS Communication Phrases / Phraseology (Task 3.3.1) commenced in October 2018 (see *VTS46-8.2.5 WP WG1 Draft Guideline on VTS Voice Communication phraseology task 1.3.1 (VTS45-12.2.3)*.

The 2018-2022 Work programme also included a workshop on the Harmonization of VTS Voice Communication (Busan, Korea, 19-22 February 2019). A key aspect of the workshop included:

*“Develop principles for VTS message construction and the development of common phraseology for clear and unambiguous communication.”*

# Discussion

Standardised phrases provide for quick and effective communication allowing us to overcome differences in language and at the same time reducing the opportunity for misunderstanding. Ambiguous or non-standard phraseology is a frequent causal or contributory factor in accidents and incidents.

The input paper has been prepared:

* Taking into consideration the related documents listed in Section 1.2 above and the outcomes from the workshops held in 2017 and 2019.
* Recognising that it is not possible to provide phrases to cover every conceivable situation which may arise. The examples contained in this draft are not exhaustive, but merely representative of phraseology in common use and have been compiled from material made available from Korea, Japan, the United Kingdom and Australia at the Workshop on Common Phraseology and Procedures for VTS Communications in February 2017, and other sources.

# Action requested of the Committee

That the Committee considers input paper *VTS47-3.1.15.1 Draft Guidelines on VTS Phraseology* for the Committees consideration in finalising the development of a Guideline on VTS Voice Communications, Phrases / Phraseology (Task 1.3.1).

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-2)