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Technical Domain / Task Number 2 1.1.1

Author(s) / Submitter(s) Correspondence Group 1

Revision of R0119 and Associated Guideline

# Summary

Correspondence Group 1 (CG1) was formed with adoption of the Action Plan for VTS Committee on 23 March 2020 as one of several Groups to progress key tasks for consideration at VTS49 following cancellation of VTS48 in March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Its task was to review and update *Recommendation RO119 – The Implementation of Vessel Traffic Services* and *Guideline 1150 – Establishment of Vessel Traffic Services*.

## Purpose of the document

The purpose of this document is to introduce the draft revisions of *Recommendation RO119 – The Implementation of Vessel Traffic Services* (*VTS49-8.1.4.1*) and *Guideline 1150 – Establishment of Vessel Traffic Services* (*VTS49-8.4.1.2*) for the Committees consideration.

# introduction

In commencing a review and update of *Recommendation V-119 on the Implementation of Vessel Traffic Services* as part of its 2018-2022 work programme, the Committee separated the existing documentation in 2019 into:

* A new and concise Recommendation on the Implementation of Vessel Traffic Services (R0119); and
* An associated Guideline on the Establishment of Vessel Traffic Services (G1150).

This aligned the documentation to the new IALA documents structure where:

* Recommendations specify what practices shall be carried out in order to comply with that Recommendation; and
* Guidelines describe how to implement practices specified in a Recommendation.

Participants of CG1 included:

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| --- | --- |
| Neil Trainor (Chair) | Australian Maritime Safety Authority |
| Kerrie Abercrombie | Australian Maritime Safety Authority |
| Tom Southall | IALA |
| Barry Goldman | IHMA |
| Trond Ski | Norwegian Coastal Administration |
| Monica Sundklev | Swedish Maritime Administration |
| Sari Talja | VTS Finland |

CG1 met on 8 occasions via teleconference and the reports from each meeting are available on the IALA files share in the VTS folder – CG1.

# Discussion

In 2009, Recommendation V-119 was split into R0119 and an associated Guideline, G1150, to align with the new IALA document structure (IALA Standards), however the contents were not reviewed and updated at the time.

Consequently, it has been over 10 years since the contents of what is now Guideline G1150 has been reviewed/updated.

In commencing the review, CG1 noted that the existing titles of the Recommendation and associated Guideline did not truly reflect their content and purpose and would be better amended to align with the wording used in SOLAS and the proposed new IMO Resolution in terms of arranging for the ***establishment*** of VTS and for ***planning and implementing*** VTS. Specifically:

**SOLAS**

* + *Contracting Governments undertake to* ***arrange for the establishment*** *of VTS where, in their opinion, the volume of traffic or the degree of risk justifies such services.*
  + *Contracting Governments* ***planning and implementing*** *VTS shall, wherever possible, follow the guidelines developed by the Organization*

**Revised “Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services” as agreed at NCSR7**

* + *Recommends Contracting Governments …. to take into account the Guidelines contained in the annex when* ***planning and implementing*** *a vessel traffic service in accordance with regulation V/12 of the Convention.*

As such, CG1 concluded that:

* + The Recommendation title should be the *Establishment of VTS*; and
  + The Guideline title should be *Establishing, Planning and Implementing a VTS*.

**Guideline 1150**

In reviewing the Recommendation and associated Guideline, the CG1 considered:

* The need to highlight the regulatory framework for establishing VTS, including SOLAS, the IMO Resolution for VTS, IALA Standards and national law;
* The guideline should draw on International guidance on concepts and processes that are considered to form good practice in project management where this already exists, ; and
* IALA documentation that has been developed or updated since 2009 regarding VTS operations and risk assessment.

This approach provided an opportunity to develop a concise, high-level document, to assist authorities implement the practices specified in R0119 associated with establishing, planning and implementing VTS.

Recognising that it has been over 10 years since the contents of the G1150 has been reviewed/updated this approach has also culminated in a major update in terms of the documents structure and content. As such, it is not practical to offer a track changes version. Should a comparison between the existing G1150 and revised draft be required the documents will simply need to be compared against each other.

While parts of the text in the existing Guideline are still relevant and have been carried forward into the draft revision, key changes include:

The key components in the revised document include:

* **Section 4 Establishing** – This section highlights the international framework for Governments to establish VTS, including SOLAS, the IMO Resolution for VTS, IALA Standards and national law. The existing G1150 provides little guidance on the framework.
* **Section 5 Planning and Implementation** – This Section replaces much of the detailed text currently in Section 2 (Needs Analysis) and Section 3 (Implementation) of the existing G1150 by highlighting:
  + The use of a project management concepts and processes to ensure VTS is implemented effectively, achieves its objectives and is sufficiently resourced and funded on an ongoing basis. In particular, this references the project management phases recognised in international guidance (e.g. ISO 21500, Guidance on Project Management) and key areas for consideration as they relate to VTS; and
  + The use of risk management methodologies, in particular the IALA risk management toolbox, for assessing the risks in waterways when initiating and planning VTS.
* **Annex 1** – Noting that the IALA risk management toolbox provides a detailed methodology for identifying and assessing the risks in waterways, Annex 1 provides a list of key considerations, many of which are incorporated in the toolbox, to assist in:
  + Determining the need for VTS;
  + Defining the functional requirements needed to achieve the desired level of safety and efficiency and protection of the environment; and
  + Determining the costs associated with implementing VTS and whether the expected reduction in risk would be justified in terms of the level of investment required.

Much of the text in this Annex includes revised/updated text from Section 2.1 (Preliminary Assessment), Section 2.2 (Feasibility and Design Phase) and Section 2.3 (Formal Risk Assessment) of the existing G1150.

* **Annex 2** – Provides examples of passive traffic management measures to consider as additional or alternative risk mitigation measures to VTS when considering the feasibility of VTS to address the issues and problems associated with the volume of traffic and degree of risk in the waterway (Section 5.1 of the draft revision).

Much of the text in this Annex includes revised/updated text from Section 2.1.8 (Finalising the Preliminary Assessment Phase) of the existing G1150.

The contents associated with Section 4 (Evaluation) of the existing G1150 has not been not been included in the draft revision. It was the view of the Group that this would be better included under *Recommendation 0127 – VTS Operations* and/or *Recommendation 1013 – Auditing and Assessing Vessel Traffic Services* and their associated guidelines, as appropriate.

A copy of the draft revision of G1150 is at *VTS49-8.1.4.2*.

**Recommendation 0119**

Only minor amendments were identified for R0119 following the revision of G1150. A copy of the draft revision of R0119is at *VTS49-8.1.4.1*.

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to:

* + - 1. Consider the draft revisions of R0119 and G1150 prepared by Correspondence Group 1 with a view to forwarding the revisions to Council for approval.
      2. Give consideration to Section 4 on Evaluation from the existing G1150 being reviewed/updated and included under *Recommendation 0127 – VTS Operations* and/or *Recommendation 1013 – Auditing and Assessing Vessel Traffic Services* and their associated guidelines, as appropriate.

ENCLOSUREs:

* + - 1. Draft revision of IALA Guideline 1150 (*VTS49-8.1.4.2).*
      2. Draft revision of IALA Recommendation 0119 (*VTS49-8.1.4.1*).

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