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Agenda item

Technical Domain / Task Number

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Report on IMO MSC 110

# Introduction

This report summarises matters of interest to IALA arising from the 110th session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 110), held from 18 to 27 June 2025 at IMO Headquarters. The session was chaired by Mrs. Mayte Medina (United States).

IALA was represented by Minsu Jeon and Stefan Pielmeier. IALA also submitted an information paper, MSC 110/INF.24, presenting Recommendation R1007 – the VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) for shore infrastructure.

# Outcomes of the meeting

**VHF Data Exchange System (VDES)**

In line with recommendations from NCSR 12, MSC 110 approved draft amendments to SOLAS chapter V introducing the VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) as a carriage requirement alongside AIS. Adoption is planned at MSC 111 (2026), with entry into force on 1 January 2028.

IALA’s expertise was recognised in the correspondence group tasked with developing shore-based VDES infrastructure guidelines, addressing spectrum coordination, authentication, and integration with AtoN services.

**Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) Code**

The MASS Working Group reported significant progress on the draft MASS Code. Key outcomes included:

* Finalisation of several chapters, including definitions, survey and certification, approval process, operational context, system design, software principles, management of safe operations, alert management, and maintenance.
* Removal of duplication with SOLAS (e.g. deletion of the radiocommunications chapter, with provisions relocated to MASS-specific sections).
* Development of a figure clarifying the relationship between the Operational Envelope, Operational Design Domain, and fallback states.
* Recognition of the need for focused discussions on human element aspects. MSC re-established the Intersessional Working Group on MASS (ISWG/MASS) to address Chapter 15 (Human Element) and related provisions.
* Agreement on data logging requirements (minimum 30 days), with applicability extended to vessels below 3,000 GT.
* Incorporation of Remote Operation Management (ROM) frameworks, clarifying links between ROC safety management systems and ISM companies.

IALA contributed expertise on connectivity and AtoN-related aspects, particularly relevant to Chapter 17bis (Connectivity) and ensuring alignment with GMDSS/VDES developments.

**Connectivity and S-100 Framework**

MSC 110 endorsed ongoing intersessional work on a framework for global IP-based connectivity supporting S-100 ECDIS products, led by NCSR. This work complements IALA’s activities on digital AtoN services, S-200 product specifications, and maritime connectivity architecture.

**Cyber risk and software maintenance**

MSC noted new circulars, prepared by NCSR, on software update and cybersecurity procedures for shipboard navigation and communication systems.

**Worldwide Radionavigation System (WWRNS)**

MSC forwarded draft amendments recognising SBAS and ARAIM augmentation systems, with implications for IALA’s work on resilient PNT services.

**IMO Strategy on Maritime Digitalization**

The Committee encouraged Member States and international organizations, including IALA, to join the Correspondence Group on the development of the IMO Strategy on Maritime Digitalization to ensure wide engagement at an early stage.

**Development of Performance Standards for Ranging Mode (R-mode)**

MSC 110 agreed to include in the NCSR 2026–2027 work programme a new output on developing performance standards for R-mode in radionavigation receivers, with a target completion in 2027. The scope also covers potential amendments to resolution A.1046(27) on the Worldwide Radionavigation System (WWRNS).

IALA supported this proposal, recognising its importance for advancing resilient PNT services and the integration of terrestrial systems alongside GNSS.

# Action requested of the Committee

#### **Note** the information provided.