**Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-1) VTS56**-10.2.1

**Input paper for the following Committee(s):** **Purpose of paper:**

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ARM  ENG  PAP  Input

ENAV VTS  Information

**Agenda item** [[2]](#footnote-2) 10.2

**Technical domain/ Task number** 2 Task 3.8.8 – VTS English Language Competency Test (Tentative Title)

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Report of the Intersessional task group activity on Task 3.8.8 – VTS English communication Competency TESTing

# background

The IALA VTS Committee is progressing towards the development of guidelines for assessing the English communication competency of VTS personnel, with the aim of completing this work by VTS59, having reached consensus on the provisional Title of Guideline: *VTS English Communication Competency Testing* and the structure of the Guideline during VTS55

# Discussion

The Task Group held several meetings between VTS55 and VTS56. The Task Group continued preparing the draft Guideline on *VTS English Communication Competency Testing.* Key components currently under development include:

1. **Defining the target audience**

The purpose of the Guideline will assist:

* VTS providers to monitor that VTS personnel continue to conform with the practices for VTS communications as outlined in IMO SMCP and IALA G1132. This framework may be incorporated into periodic performance assessments, On-the-Job and recurrent training programmes to assess competency with standard message structure and phrases.
* VTS training organizations to assess the competency of how students use standard message structure and phrases in the delivery of model courses.

1. **Qualifications of test developers and assessors**

A qualification framework and training framework for test developers and assessors has been proposed, however this will need to be considered carefully in line with the practices already described in *IALA Guideline G1156 Recruitment, Training and Certification of VTS Personnel* for instructors and assessors.

1. **Structure for Rating Scales**

A rating scale has been proposed to assist in evaluating an individual's capacity to effectively communicate within the VTS operational setting.

Further discussion/decision is required in terms of whether this should be a level 5 or level 6 rating scale. National members are requested to review the proposed rating scales and consider how they may apply this rating scale when assessing individuals.

1. **Establishing Evaluation Criteria**

It is proposed that the evaluation criteria for VTS English communication competency testing will be based on the framework outlined in IALA G1132.

Annex A provides reference level descriptors to how this rating scale may be used to assess competency against these four evaluation criteria elements. In a similar manner, a discussion/decision is required in terms of whether this should be a level 5 or level 6 rating scale.

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to note attached draft Guideline on *VTS English Communication Competency Testing* in progressing Task 3.8.8 at VTS56.

# attachment

* VTS56-10.2.1.1 Draft Guideline on VTS English Communication Competency Testing

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