**INPUT PAPER:** VTS56-8.7.2

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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 [[1]](#footnote-1) 8.7

Technical Domain / Task Number 2 Operations / Technology

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

# maintaining up-to-date Electronic Navigational Charts

# background

In a Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) system, the chart is a geographical representation of the maritime environment of the VTS area. Charts form the background for the traffic image, and in modern systems, this is invariably an Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC).

At a recent meeting of the Australian VTS Advisory Group, general discussion highlighted that depending on the software manufacturer / contract provider, there may be variation in how frequently ENCs for the VTS area/s are updated. A brief review of existing IALA guidance suggests there would be benefits in providing clear guidance on how frequently ENCs should be updated.

The Advisory Group is the peak consultative body to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority for matters relating to its responsibilities as the competent authority for VTS in Australia and includes representatives from VTS providers, State / Territory maritime authorities, port corporations / authorities, Australian Hydrographic Office, Australasian Marine Pilots Institute and other stakeholders.

# Discussion

ENCs for VTS areas should be kept up to date for consistency with charts used on board ships, noting that where licensed ENCs are out of date, they may add text or other markings that could degrade the traffic image.

Existing IALA Guidance for the maintenance of charts is provided in:

* ***G1141 Operational Procedures for Delivering VTS*** *–* G1141 states:

***4.1.9. MAINTENANCE OF NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS AND CHARTS***

*A VTS provider should ensure that arrangements are in place for* *maintaining, updating and disseminating nautical publications and charts (paper and/or electronic).*

* ***G1111-1 Producing Requirements for the Core VTS system***

***2.3.1.1. Chart***

Paragraph 3 states:

*ENCs should be kept up to date for consistency with charts used on board ships (it should be noted that if licensed charts go out of date, they may add text or other markings that could degrade the traffic image). There may be associated cost for maintaining up-to-date Charts in the system.*

To ensure ENCs for VTS areas are kept up to date and consistent with those used on board ships it is suggested that consideration be given to minor amendments to G1141 and G1111-1. Possible text for the Committees consideration is provided in Section 3 below.

# Action requested of the Committee

**The Committee** is requested to consider minor amendments to the following IALA Guidelines, as suggested below, to provide clear guidance for keeping ENCs up-to-date and consistent with those used on board ships:

* *G1141 Operational Procedures for Delivering VTS.*
* *G1111-1 Producing Requirements for the Core VTS system.*

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| **Possible amendments (in italics) for consideration**   * **G1141 Operational Procedures for Delivering VTS***.*   **4.1.9. MAINTENANCE OF NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS AND CHARTS**  A VTS provider should ensure that arrangements are in place for maintaining, updating and disseminating nautical publications and charts.  *Charts should be the latest editions as confirmed by the issuing government, hydrographic office or other relevant government institution’s Cumulative List of Notices to Mariners and corrected to date.*  *The Cumulative List, published every six months, shows the last two years of small corrections for each chart. The cumulative list also indicates the latest chart edition, along with the latest edition of publications. An up-to-date listing of charts and their corrections may be viewed at issuing government, hydrographic office or other relevant government institution’s websites.*  *In the case of Electronic Navigation Charts (ENCs) this should include processes and procedures and, where applicable, contractual arrangements with the software provider/s, to ensure ENCs are up to date and consistent with charts used on board ships (it should be noted that if licensed charts go out of date, they may add text or other markings that could degrade the traffic image).*  *ENC updates are normally received via digital format, therefore updates should be installed within 4 weeks of their release.*   * **G1111-1 Producing Requirements for the Core VTS system** – G1111 states:   **2.3.1.1. Chart**  In a VTS system the chart is a geographical representation of the maritime environment of the VTS area of interest. This chart forms the background for the traffic image. The VTS Provider should specify required chart coverage, scales, layers and updating period.  In a VTS system the Chart can be based on:   * Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) (e.g., based on IHO S-57 or S-101 standards) * Raster charts (e.g., Admiralty nautical charts (ARCS)) * Other types of vector nautical charts * Satellite images, land maps, GIS sources, etc.   *Charts should be the latest editions as confirmed by the issuing government, hydrographic office or other relevant government institution’s Cumulative List of Notices to Mariners and corrected to date to ensure consistency with charts used on board ships, noting that out of date ENCs may add text or other markings that could degrade the traffic image.*  *Electronic Navigation Charts (ENC) updates are normally received via digital format and therefore should be installed within 4 weeks of their release.*  *Note – no changes are proposed for paragraphs 4-7.* |

1. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-1)