



**IALA RECOMMENDATION (NORMATIVE)**

R1012

VTS COMMUNICATIONS

**Edition 1.3**

**December 2025 urn:mrn:iala:pub:r1012:ed1.3**

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International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities Association Internationale de Signalisation Maritime

**DOCUMENT REVISION**

Revisions to this document are to be noted in the table prior to the issue of a revised document.

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| **Date** | **Details** | **Approval** |
| December 2017 | 1st Issue | Council 65 |
| September 2020 | Ed.1.1 Editorial corrections. |  |
| January 2022 | Edition 1.2 Approved by Council December 2021 and published January 2022, in alignment with IMO Resolution A.1158(32) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services. | Council 74 |
| December 2025 | Edition 1.3 Approved by Council December 2025 and published January 2026, to reflect revisions of IALA model courses specifically related to VTS and adoption of Guideline GXXXX. | XXXX |
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**THE COUNCIL**

**RECALLING**

1. The function of IALA with respect to Safety of Navigation, the efficiency of maritime transport and the protection of the environment.
2. Article 8 of the IALA Constitution regarding the authority, duties and functions of the Council.

**NOTING** that:

1. IALA Recommendation *R1012 – VTS Communications* provides practices to ensure VTS communications are harmonized through common phraseology, procedures and technology for the delivery of precise, simple and unambiguous communications to the bridge team and allied services.
2. IALA guidelines related to VTS Communications, include, but are not necessarily restricted to:

* *G1132 - VTS Voice Communications and Phraseology.*
* *GXXXX - VTS Digital Communications.*
* *GXXXX - Competency in VTS Communications.*

**RECOGNIZING** that IALA fosters the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels through improvement and harmonisation of aids to navigation, including vessel traffic services, world-wide,

1. The *International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea 74/78 (SOLAS) Chapter V (Safety of Navigation) Regulation 12* provides for Vessel Traffic Services and states inter-alia that
   1. Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) contribute to safety of life at sea, safety and efficiency of navigation and protection of the marine environment, adjacent shore areas, work sites and offshore installations from possible adverse effects of maritime traffic.
   2. Contracting Governments planning and implementing VTS shall, wherever possible, follow the guidelines developed by Organization (i.e., *IMO Resolution A.1158(32) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services*.)
2. *IMO Resolution A.1158(32)*:
   1. Recognizes IALA as an important contributor to IMO's role and responsibilities relating to VTS through publishing standards and associated recommendations, guidelines and model courses specifically related to the establishment and operation of VTS to contribute to achieving worldwide harmonization of VTS.
   2. States that the competent authority for VTS should:

*‘Establish a regulatory framework for establishing and operating VTS in accordance with relevant international conventions and IMO instruments, IALA standards and national law.*

1. The level of safety and efficiency in the movement of maritime traffic within an area covered by a vessel traffic service would be enhanced by ensuring that VTS communications are harmonized through common phraseology, procedures and technology for the delivery of precise, simple and unambiguous communications to the bridge team and allied services.

**CONSIDERING** the proposals of the VTS Committee.

**ADOPTS** Recommendation *R1012 on VTS Communications.*

**RECOMMENDS** that competent authorities and VTS providers contribute to precise and unambiguous communications with the traffic by implementing harmonized and standardized procedures and technology.

**INVITES** Members and competent authorities for Vessel Traffic Services to implement the provisions of the Recommendation and its associated guidelines on VTS communications.

**REQUESTS** the Vessel Traffic Services Committee or such other committee as the Council may direct to keep this Recommendation under review and to propose amendments as necessary.