Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-1) VTS58-7.2.5

Input paper for the following Committee(s): check as appropriate Purpose of paper:

**□** ARM **□** ENG **□** PAP **☑** Input

**□** ENAV **X** VTS **□** Information

Agenda item [[2]](#footnote-2) 7.2

Technical Domain / Task Number 2 N/A

Author(s) / Submitter(s) China Maritime Safety Administration

Proposal for new task - revision of Guideline 1115 relating to preparing for an IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) on VTS

# 1 Summary

The first cycle of IMO Member State audits is being concluded by the end of 2025. Currently, IMO is drafting a revision of one of the basic documents for IMSAS - the *Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme* (Res. A.1067(28)). The revised draft has been finalized and is scheduled for adoption at the thirty-fourth session of IMO Assembly in December 2025.

The *Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme* is one of the key references for the IALA Guideline on *Preparing for an IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) on VTS* (hereinafter referred to as G1115). In order to ensure that G1115 is consistent with the revised *Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme* and assist Member States in their preparation for the second cycle of IMSAS audits, it is suggested that IALA undertake the revision of G1115 as soon as possible.

## 1.1 Purpose of the document

This document aims to propose the revision of G1115 as a new task to keep pace with the upcoming revision of the *Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme*, and to assist Member States in preparing for their second cycle of IMSAS audits.

## 1.2 Related documents

1. G1115-PREPARING FOR AN *IMO MEMBER STATE AUDIT SCHEME (IMSAS)* ON VTS
2. VTS57-7.2.1-Experience sharing of China's acceptance of the VTS module in the audits of IMO member countries
3. VTS Committee Task plan 2025-2027
4. VTS57-13.1 Report of VTS57
5. https://www.iala.int/product-category/calendar/

# 2 Background

## 2.1 Status of VTS57

China Maritime Safety Administration submitted the input paper of Experience sharing of China's acceptance of the VTS module in the audits of IMO member countries (VTS57-7.2.1). The Committee thus encouraged China to input their recommendations for a future revision on G1115.

## 2.2 Development of G1115 and its revision

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **IALA Sessions** | **Status of Development** | **Completion** |
| 2014.10 | VTS38 | For the first time, IALA included the task to "Produce a Guideline on Preparing for IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) as it relates to VTS"(G1115) into the 2014-18 Work Programme of the VTS Committee | Completed |
| 2015.4 | VTS39 | A working group consisting of delegates from Malaysia and the IALA World-Wide Academy submitted the draft G1115 to the Committee | Completed |
| 2015.10 | VTS40 | The VTS Committee approved the draft G1115 (VTS40-12.1.1) and submitted it to IALA Council | Completed |
| 2015.12 | IALA C60 | The IALA Council approved G1115 (C61-10.4.2) which was subsequently released by the Secretariat | Completed |
| 2016.1 | The IMO Member State Audit Scheme became mandatory | | |
| 2021.12 | IMO Resolution A.1158(32) on the *Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services* revoked Res. A.857(20) | | |
| 2021.12 | IALA C74 | To align with Res. A.1158(32), the IALA Council, at its seventy-fourth session, approved G1115 (Edition 1.1), which was released by the Secretariat thereafter | Completed |

## 2.3 Development of the Framework and Procedures for IMSAS and arrangement for the second cycle of audits

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **IMO Sessions** | **Status of Development** | **Completion** |
| 2025.3 | JWGMSA 9 | The draft of revised *Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme* was submitted to the IMO Council for consideration | Completed |
| 2025.7 | C 134 | The IMO Council considered and approved the draft of the revised *Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme* and submitted it to the thirty-fourth session of IMO Assembly | Completed |
| 2025.12 | A 34 | The Assembly will consider and adopt the draft resolution of the revised *Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme* (Res. A.XXXX(34)) | Upcoming |
| 2027 | The second cycle of IMSAS audits shall commence | | Upcoming |

# 3 Discussion

So far, IMO has released a total of seven Consolidated Audit Summary Reports, which indicate that very few findings in relation to VTS have been discovered in each Member State. This reflects that, to a certain extent, G1115 has provided great assistance to Member States in preparing for IMO audits. During the IMO audit in 2024, China also fully recognized the importance of the G1115 guidelines and benefited a lot from it.

Annex A "Guidance for Audit Preparation" in G1115 is based on the *Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme* as an important reference. In view of the current draft revision of the *Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme* (JWGMSA 9/WP.1), this revision is very comprehensive, and key points of the revision are detailed in Annex B to this document.

Recognizing that the *Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme* is the most essential document for IMO in implementing IMSAS, in addition to the *IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code)*, it is particularly necessary to revise G1115 in a timely manner to maintain the unified coordination between G1115 and the *Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme.*

As is shown from the audit schedule, the first cycle of IMO audits is being concluded in 2025, and the second cycle is expected to begin in 2027. Only by initiating the revision of G1115 as soon as possible can the Committee complete the revised guideline in time before the start of the second cycle of audits, providing assistance to Member States in accepting VTS audits and ensuring the continuity of the use of G1115.

China has been working on the revision of G1115 in accordance with the draft of revised *Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme* (JWGMSA 9/WP.1) and intends to further improve it after the adoption of the *Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme* at the thirty-fourth session of IMO Assembly scheduled in December 2025.

# 4 Work plan

This new task is urgent and necessary. If possible, it should be prioritized over other tasks of WG1. The specific revised work plan is shown in the table below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **IALA Sessions** | **Development to be expected** |
| 2025.9 | VTS58 | Request the Committee to consider the new task proposal and further submit it to the Council for review |
| 2025.12 | C03 | Add a new task to the Committee's 2025-2027 work plan: Revise IALA Guideline 1115 to address changes resulting from the adoption of the revised *Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS)* |
| 2026.3 | VTS59 | Commencement of the task |
| 2026.9 | VTS60 | First draft completed for approval by the Committee |
| 2027.3 | VTS61 | Draft finalized and submitted to Council for approval |
| 2027.6 | C06 | Consider, adopt and release the new G1115 (Edition 2.0) |

# 5 References

1. SOLAS 1974
2. IMO-PROG-133 - Programme Of Meetings For 2025 (Secretariat)
3. IMO-JWGMSA 9/WP.1-[REVISED] FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMO MEMBER STATE AUDIT
4. IMO Resolution A.1067(28)-FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURES FOR THE IMO MEMBER STATE AUDIT SCHEME
5. IMO C 134/11- Progress report on the implementation of the Scheme
6. IMO Circular Letter No.3772/3879/4028/4317/4442/4771/4919

# 6 Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to:

1. Review the new task proposal and further submit it to the Council
2. Note that China is willing to undertake the drafting of the revised G1115 and kindly invite other Member States to participate in this work.

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