

**IALA COUNCIL
60th Session**

**May 26-29, 2015
Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia**

Agenda item 9 – IALA TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

9.4 VTS

9.4.2 Revision of IALA Recommendation V-128 [Ed. 4] on Operational and Technical Performance Requirements for VTS Equipment

Note by the VTS Committee

1 Introduction

The VTS Committee has been tasked to review Recommendation V-128 Edition 3 on Operational and Technical Performance Requirements for VTS Equipment as part the Committees 2014-18 Work Programme (task 2.2.2).

2 Background

The implementation and on-going maintenance of VTS systems to ensure the capability to interact with ship traffic and to respond to traffic situations developing in the VTS area is a significant investment by authorities. The technical and operational performance of VTS systems is a major contributing factor to ensuring that the operational objectives set for the VTS continue to be met and the issues identified and defined in determining the need for the VTS have been either alleviated or at least reduced to an acceptable level.

The Committee is firmly of the opinion that guidance on the preparation of technical and operational performance requirements for VTS systems needs to be clearly articulated, user friendly and regularly updated to include new and emerging technologies, changes in technology and work practices.

The existing Recommendation V-128 was last revised in June 2007 and the revised guidance is a significant improvement on the existing document and its release is keenly sought by members.

3 Discussion

While preparing this task, the VTS Committee noted that both the existing Recommendation and the draft revision being developed have evolved into large documents. In addition to providing detailed information on VTS equipment, indicating options, best practices and suggestions for implementation, the draft revised Recommendation also had become, in the view of many members, to be overly prescriptive.

In particular, there was general consensus that the contents of the document had essentially become more characteristic of a Guideline as opposed to a Recommendation.

The Committee concluded that the issues identified above could be addressed by taking the detailed technical information out of the Recommendation and incorporate this into a new IALA Guideline. This was seen as consistent with the current IALA definitions for these documents. That is:

- **Recommendation V-128 on Operational and Technical Performance of VTS Systems** – The aim of this document is to provide high level direction for Competent Authorities and VTS

Authorities to meet their obligations under SOLAS for the establishment and operation of VTS. In particular it aims to provide guidance for the determination, operation and maintenance of VTS systems to ensure:

- Conformity with international obligations
- The technical performance of the VTS system is consistent with the objectives of the VTS and the types of service/s provided
- The operational objectives are being met

Note: The Committee also suggests a minor change to the title of the document by omitting the word “Requirements”, and also changing the word “Equipment” to “Systems” to reflect the document now being much less prescriptive than its predecessor. This also reflects the view that VTS is a system rather than a collection of equipment.

- **Guideline 1111 on Preparation of Operational and Technical Performance Requirements for VTS Systems** – The aim of this document is to provide detailed information on the operational and technical performance of VTS equipment, including options, best practices and suggestions for implementation.

This approach is consistent with the existing IALA definitions of Recommendations and Guidelines. That is:

Recommendation	Guideline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction on uniform procedures and processes • Contains information on how members should plan, operate and manage Aids to Navigation • References relevant International Standards and IALA Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides detailed information on an aspect of a specific subject, indicating options, best practices and suggestions for implementation • Relates to planning, operating and managing Aids to Navigation

Further, the Committee is of the view that the suggested approach is also consistent with the new IALA documentation policy (Standards, Recommendations and Guidelines) being implemented during the current work programme.

4 Action requested

The Council is requested to:

- 1 Approve the revision of Recommendation V-128 Edition 3 on Operational and Technical Performance Requirements of VTS Equipment, noting the suggested change to the document's title to Recommendation V-128 Edition 4 Operational and Technical Performance of VTS Systems (input paper C60-9.4.2.2)
- 2 Approve the draft Guideline 1111 on Preparation of Operational and Technical Performance Requirements for VTS Systems (input paper C60-9.4.2.3).