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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

IALA Guideline G1149 on vessel traffic service training for deck officers

Submitted by IALA

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides input on the provisions of the STCW Code related to VTS training for deck officers and introduces IALA Guideline G1149 which provides recommendations on the provision of such training.

Strategic direction, if applicable:

Output:

Action to be taken: 15

Related documents: Resolution A.857(20); MSC.1/Circ.1065/Rev.1; and IALA standards, associated recommendations, guidelines and model courses relating to Vessel Traffic Services (VTS).

Introduction

1 The 2010 Manila amendments to the annex to the International Convention on Standards for Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW), introduced references to vessel traffic services (VTS) in the specification for the minimum standard of competence for officers in charge of a navigational watch, chief mates and masters (deck officers) related to navigation at both the operational and management levels.

2 Specifically, the STCW Code provides that deck officers should attain knowledge, understanding and proficiency in, inter-alia:

- .1 reporting in accordance with VTS procedures;
- .2 communication with VTS centres;
- .3 voyage planning and navigation taking account of VTS areas; and
- .4 manoeuvring in VTS areas.

3 Furthermore, the STCW Code indicates that navigation and watchkeeping simulation should realistically simulate VTS communication procedures between ship and shore.

4 To support the provisions of the STCW Code IALA, through its VTS Committee, produced IALA Guideline G1149 on *VTS training for deck officers*¹. The Guideline contains recommendations that complement the standard of competence provided in the STCW Code for deck officers in order to enhance their understanding of VTS. The Guideline may also be used by other relevant stakeholders, such as flag states, harbour and port organisations, pilot organisations and shipping companies.

5 The Guideline also complements the training provided to VTS operators and VTS supervisors as specified in IALA Standard S1050 on *Training and Certification* and its associated IALA Recommendation R0103 on the *Standards for the Training and Certification of VTS Personnel* and its associated model courses.

Discussion

6 An effective VTS contributes to the 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.

7 Chapter V, Regulation 12 of The International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea provides the international basis for VTS provision and is supported by Resolution A.857(20) on *Guidelines for vessel traffic services* and a suite of IALA standards, recommendations, guidelines and model courses to ensure the harmonization of VTS provision on a global basis.

8 An efficient VTS relies upon the co-operation between the bridge team and the VTS. The effectiveness of information exchange depends upon each party understanding their respective functions, responsibilities and capabilities. Increased knowledge, understanding and proficiency related to VTS operations by deck officers will enhance the mutual understanding and teamwork between VTS and ships and improve the safety and efficiency of navigation.

9 VTS training activities should be included in the mandatory national training programmes for deck officers developed in accordance with the provisions of the STCW Code and be reflected in examination and assessment. VTS training activities may also be included in other types of training, such as bridge resource management, voyage planning and voice communications.

10 The Guideline presents recommendations and information that may be used by maritime training organizations in the development of training on VTS as an integral part of the training of deck officers. The Guideline also provides examples of activities that may be used to facilitate effective communications and the exchange of information between deck officers and a VTS.

¹ <https://www.iala-aism.org/product/g1149-vts-training-for-deck-officers/>

11 The recommendations, information and references contained within the Guideline are broken down into four sections which consist of:

- .1 an overview of VTS including its applications, purposes, objectives, roles and functions, VTS procedures and their associated benefits to deck officers;
- .2 guidance on the VTS interaction with allied and other services involved in the safe and efficient passage of the ship through a VTS area such as pilotage, towage, line handlers, port authorities, search and rescue and customs authorities and services;
- .3 tools to improve the effectiveness and reliability of voice communication between the deck officer and the VTS centre; and
- .4 suggestions as to potential training activities to include in the mandatory national training programmes for deck officers such as theory, practical, equipment and familiarization training to give effect to the provisions of the STCW Code.

12 In addition to the recommendations and information contained within the Guideline, references are made to other IALA publications related to the provision and operation of VTS which provide amplifying information on the subjects outlined. These publications provide comprehensive information with respect to the provision and operation of a VTS which may be usefully be integrated into navigation and watchkeeping simulation to further enhance their realism.

13 The implementation of the Guideline will ensure that the knowledge, understanding and proficiency of deck officers is enhanced to maximize the benefits of VTS in ensuring the safety and efficiency of navigation.

14 Furthermore, it is suggested that the content of the Guideline may provide useful recommendations, information and references when the relevant provisions of the STCW Code related to the specification for the minimum standard of competence for officers in charge of a navigational watch, chief mates and masters related to navigation at both the operational and management levels are next considered for review.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

15 The Sub-Committee is requested to:

- .1 note the content of IALA Guideline G1149 on *VTS training for deck officers* and to bring it to the attention of maritime training organizations and other parties concerned; and
- .2 take account of, as appropriate, the content of the Guideline when considering any future amendments to the STCW Code related to the specification for the minimum standard of competence for officers in charge of a navigational watch, chief mates and masters related to navigation at both the operational and management levels.