

IALA RECOMMENDATION

R0127(V-127)

VTS OPERATIONS

Edition 3.0

December 2018



DOCUMENT HISTORY

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

Date	Details	Approval
25 May 2004	1 st issue	Council 34
24 June 2011	Minor revisions throughout to maintain currency and ensure alignment with other new and updated IALA documentation.	Council 51
14 December 2018	Whole document, to conform to the new IALA documentation structure. Details were transferred to guideline G1141.	Council 68

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

3. IALA Recommendation V-127 - Operational Procedures for Vessel Traffic Services provides practices for interactions between the VTS, participating vessels and allied services.
4. IALA guidelines related to VTS operations¹, including, but not necessarily restricted to:
 - VTS Operational Procedures.
 - Provision of Vessel Traffic Services (INS, TOS, NAS).
 - Use of Decision Support Tools for VTS Personnel.
 - Setting and Measuring VTS Objectives.
 - Staffing Levels at VTS Centres.
 - Marine Casualty / Incident Reporting and Recording, including Near-Miss Situations as it Relates to VTS.

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

5. 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
 - a. 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.
 - b. Contracting Governments undertake to arrange for the establishment of VTS where, in their opinion, the volume of traffic or the degree of risk justifies such services.
 - c. Contracting Governments planning and implementing VTS shall, wherever possible, follow the guidelines developed by the Organization (i.e. IMO Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services).

¹ Refer IALA Reference List

6. IMO Resolution A.857(20) recognises that:
- a. The safety and efficiency of maritime traffic and the protection of the marine environment would be improved if vessel traffic services were established and operated in accordance with internationally approved guidelines.
 - b. The use of differing vessel traffic service operations may cause confusion to masters of vessels moving from one vessel traffic service area to another.
7. 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 operations are harmonised to ensure the delivery of precise, simple and unambiguous communications to the bridge team and allied services.

CONSIDERING the proposals of the Vessel Traffic Services Committee.

ADOPTS Recommendation R0127(V-127) on VTS Operations,

RECOMMENDS that Competent Authorities and VTS Authorities contribute to precise and unambiguous delivery of VTS operations with the traffic by implementing harmonised and standardised VTS operations.

INVITES Members and Competent Authorities for Vessel Traffic Services to implement the provisions of the Recommendation and its associated guidelines on VTS Operations.

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.