

## NOTE

14 October 2013

**Our reference:**

Case 2013008614

/jga-sfs

### **Convention for the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)**

The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities is based upon cooperation between a number of government administrations responsible for safety of navigation. More specifically, IALA strives to develop "best practices" as well as aids to navigation and buoyage standards.

IALA was established in 1957. Today, it has 77 national members and 104 industry members, including the four Danish companies Terma, Force Technologies, Ol-Electric and Gatehouse. Denmark's membership is handled by the Ministry of Business and Growth through the Danish Maritime Authority, which has a seat in the IALA Council.

As the work carried out by IALA is not founded in an international convention, IALA's recommended standards can become binding only if they are adopted by United Nations' International Maritime Organization (IMO). Thus, IALA differs from, for example, the IHO (International Hydrographic Organization) which draws up internationally binding standards on hydrographic surveys and mapping of waters.

The adoption of an international convention will make it possible to establish IALA as an intergovernmental organisation in line with, for example, the IHO. The convention will lay down the framework of the work performed by IALA, including its purpose, members, general assembly, etc. Thus, the convention will replace today's rather informal agreement on IALA's work.

The adoption of the convention will make it possible for IALA to lay down internationally binding standards. This will enhance safety and protection of the marine environment and increase the efficiency of the work on international legislation in the area. It deserves to be mentioned that the global standards adopted by IALA will not become binding on the member states until they have subsequently accepted them. This can be achieved by IALA's adoption of resolutions urging the member states to implement specific standards in national legislation. Alternatively, IALA can issue conventions as such, which will, however, not enter take effect

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until they have been ratified by a number of countries determined beforehand. Both models are known from the IMO.

IMO's Secretary General expects that a change of the legal status of IALA will strengthen the existing cooperation between the IMO and IALA. Consequently, the IMO has made expertise and resources available for the work developing a IALA convention.

The IALA Secretariat has an annual budget of appr. EUR 2.5 million. Denmark's annual membership fee amounts to EUR 13,000, which is paid by the Danish Maritime Authority.

The change of the status of IALA into an intergovernmental organisation is not expected to have any economic or legislative consequences for Denmark.

It is expected that the new IALA convention will be adopted at the IALA General Assembly to be held in May 2014.