VTS45-12.1.3

# R0127



**RECOMMENDATION**

VTS OPERATIONS

**Edition 1.0**

**December 2018**



**DOCUMENT HISTORY**

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

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| **Date** | **Details** | **Approval** |
| December 2018 | 1st Issue | Council XX |
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**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**:

1. IALA Recommendation V‐127 on Operational Procedures for Vessel Traffic Services provides practices for interactions between the VTS, participating vessels and allied services.
2. IALA guidelines related to VTS operations[[1]](#footnote-1), including, but not necessarily restricted to:

* VTS Operational Procedures.
* Provision of VTS.
* Use of Decision Support Tools.
* Setting and Measuring VTS Objectives.

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

1. 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
   1. 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.
   2. 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.
   3. Contracting Governments planning and implementing VTS shall, wherever possible, follow the guidelines developed by Organization (i.e. IMO Resolution IMO Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services.
2. IMO Resolution A.857(20) recognises that:
   1. 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.
   2. The use of differing vessel traffic service operations may cause confusion to masters of vessels moving from one vessel traffic service area to another.
3. 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 on VTS Operations.

**RECOMMENDS** that Competent Authorities and VTS Authorities contribute to precise and unambiguous delivery of VTS operations with the traffic by implementing harmonized and standardized 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.

1. Refer IALA Reference List [↑](#footnote-ref-1)