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**Guiding Principles**

**Drafting Guidance on training needs for those involved in establishing, planning and implementing VTS**

**Introduction**

The ‘*guiding principles’* provide the framework for drafting guidance on training needs for those involved in establishing, planning and implementing VTS (Task 1.1.3).

The establishment and implementation of VTS is increasing rapidly throughout the world. It has become evident that there is a need to provide guidance to establishing, planning and implementation of VTS effectively and in a manner consistent with their international obligations under SOLAS and conform with IALA Recommendation R*O119 - The Implementation of Vessel Traffic Services* and *Guideline 1150 - Establishment of Vessel Traffic Services.*

**Purpose of the Guidance**

The purpose of the guidance is to assist governments in establishing, planning and implementing VTS effectively and in a manner consistent with their international obligations under SOLAS and to conform with IALA Standards.

In particular, the guidance provides a mechanism to ensure those responsible for the planning and implementation are competent in the practices described in Recommendation 0119 and to implement those practices as described in Guideline 1150.

**Guiding Principles**

The guidance should be prepared in a form that assists Contracting Governments, Competent Authorities and VTS authorities [provider] to meet their obligations under SOLAS Chapter V (Safety of Navigation) Regulation 12 to plan, implement and deliver VTS in a consistent and harmonized manner.

In particular, the guidance should:

* + Provide an appropriate high-level framework that is both clear and concise,
  + Clearly and concisely describes the links between SOLAS, the resolution, IMO documentation and requirements relevant to VTS and IALA Standards.
  + Provide a framework for individual countries/governments to prepare training courses if required.
  + Recognise:
    - Establishing VTS both within the territorial sea and beyond the territorial sea; and
    - The needs of both developed and developing countries.

**Evaluating Proposed Text**

As a guide, the following questions should be asked when considering content/proposed text for the guidance:

* Is it consistent with the purpose of the guidance?
* Is it clear and concise?
* Is the topic/issue already prescribed in, or is a cross reference required to, existing IMO and/or IALA documentation?
* Does it add value?
* Is it in conflict with other IALA documentation?