Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-1) VTS50-11.3.3

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Input paper for the following Committee(s): check as appropriate Purpose of paper:

**□** ARM **□** ENG **□** PAP **X** Input

**□** ENAV **X** VTS **□** Information

Agenda item [[2]](#footnote-2) 11.3

Technical Domain / Task Number 2 3.3.1b

Author(s) / Submitter(s) Australian Maritime Safety Authority

# review of Model Course R0103/1 VTS Operator Training (Task 3.3.1b)

# Summary

This paper provides a brief overview to enclosure VTS50-11.3.3.1, which has been prepared for the Committees consideration in completing Task 3.3.1b - Review/update model course R0103/1 – VTS Operator.

## Related documents

* Report of the IALA VTS Training and Qualifications Workshop, held on-line 15 and 18 June 2020.
* VTS49-10.3.7 Input Paper - Comments on outcomes from IALA training Workshop
* Report from correspondence group on the review of V103/1 model course (VTS50-11.3.2) and their draft revision (VTS50-11.3.2.1 and VTS50-11.3.2.2)

# Background

At VTS49 the Committee reviewed the input received for this task along with work carried out at previous meetings, however a working paper was not posted on the IALA file server along with the VTS49 working papers.

An intersessional group was formed following VTS49 to further progress Task 3.3.1b. The group met on 16 December 2020 and 4 February 2021. A copy of their report and draft revision is available at VTS50-11.3.2 and VTS50-11.3.2.1 and VTS50-11.3.2.2 respectively.

The enclosed working paper (VTS50-11.3.3.1) was submitted to the group for their consideration following their first meeting, however there was insufficient time for the Group to consider it at their final meeting.

# Discussion

The enclosed input document provides additional input for the Committees consideration in the revision of the R0103/1 model course. Key elements in the enclosed include:

**1. Document structure**

The proposed structure includes the use of two parts (Part One – Course overview and Part Two – Course modules) as adopted by IALA for the following model courses:

* L1.3 - Marine Aids to Navigation Manager Training, Level 1 - Use of the IALA Risk Management Tools
* L2.2.4 - Aids to Navigation ‐ Technician Training, Level 2 Module 2 Element 2.4 Wind Generators
* L1.4 - Aids to Navigation Management Training, Level 1 - Global Navigation Satellite Systems and e-Navigation

It is also suggested that the ‘Foreword’ be deleted from the model courses as this content is already contained at a high level in Recommendation R0103.

**2. Course modules**

The key fundamental change to the course modules is to align the training to the purpose of VTS as outlined in the ‘new’ IMO Resolution expected to be adopted later this year by including a core module focussed on the ‘Provision of VTS’ to mitigate the development of unsafe situations (See Module 3). This also draws on relevant IALA guidance associated with the provision of VTS, in particular:

* G1089 (Revised) - Provision of VTS
* G1132 - VTS VHF Voice communication. Note – this is be amended to include phraseology.
* G1111 - Preparation of Operational and Technical Performance Requirements for VTS Systems
* G1141 - Operational procedures for Vessel Traffic Services
* G1118 - Marine casualty /incident reporting and recording, including near‐miss situations as it relates to VTS

It is suggested that this approach would benefit students by providing a greater appreciation of the material taught in R0103/1 and how this aligns with the IMO Resolution, and IALA Recommendations and Guidelines associated with S1040.

Similarly, it is suggested this would also assist competent authorities when approving the delivery of the model course as per G1014.

**3. Course Duration**

When this model course was initially prepared in 1998, it provided for various pathways to become a VTS operator eg “ab initio”, that is, a person that walks off the street with no maritime background/comes straight from school, to the other spectrum where people have some level of maritime experience.

It is evident that many VTS authorities identify a candidate to be suitable as a VTS operator before they attend a R0103/1 course, and based on their operational needs they will determine when their OJT is completed (eg prior to, after, or in multiple stages).

The existing R0103/1 model course currently recommends that 547 hours of presentations and simulation exercises should be carried out - this is equates to about 3.5 months of time, which undoubtedly comes with high training costs for a VTS authority. However, web research indicates that the majority of accredited training organisations appear to offer R0103/1 courses with a duration of 2 to 3 weeks depending if various prior learning experiences/ pre-requisites are met.

It is suggested that in the review of the R0103 model courses, the suggested/recommended course hours should be:

* based on the pathway that the majority of students will take, and
* weighted towards subject elements associated with core business (eg ‘Provision of VTS’).

Training organisations may increase the recommended hours for the course based on the student intake and overall competence levels. Alternatively, a competent authority may determine that the national standards need to be set higher for that model course.

**4. Strengthening relationship between OJT and R0103/1 VTS operator courses**

There is a need to review the existing subject elements carefully and consider what contents would be better taught generically worldwide (ie. The model course) and which may be more effectively taught as OJT, noting that to be considered competent they should hold:

* An R0103/1 Certificate issued by a VTS training organisation accredited by a competent authority; and
* Have satisfactorily completed OJT at the VTS where the person is employed.

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to consider the attached input document (VTS50-11.3.3.1) as a suggested revision for the R0103/1 model course based on the existing model course.

ENCLOSUREs:

VTS50-11.3.3.1 20201228- V-103.1 VTS Operator-rev-prep-ICG-02\_KA edits (2 Feb)

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-2)