Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-2) VTS50-3.2.2

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

**x** ARM **□** ENG **□** PAP **x** Input

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

Agenda item [[2]](#footnote-3) 3.2

Technical Domain / Task Number 2 -

Author(s) / Submitter(s) Monica Sundklev / Chair VTS Committee

Report from inter-sessional group on the review of the IMSAS Manual

# Summary

ARM requested, through a liaison note [1] to VTS49, that the Chair and Vice Chair of the VTS Committee considered the by ARM revised IMSAS Manual [2] and proposed a VTS related section for annex 3 as input to PAP. The Chair decided to fulfil the request by establishing an inter-sessional group.

The inter-sessional group (hereinafter the Group) has had six meetings and have consisted of 13 participants (incl. the Chair) from both VTS and ARM Committee. The Chair of the Group was Monica Sundklev.

The final draft from the Group was sent to PAP41 as requested on 2 February 2021 for their consideration and further action.

## Purpose of the document

The purpose of this document is to inform VTS and ARM Committees of the progress and result of the inter-sessional work as requested by ARM.

The objective of the inter-sessional work was to develop and forward a draft annex 3 to PAP41 in order to submit an IALA proposal to MSC 103 referring to the correct documents in force.

# Background

The revision concerns IMO Circular Letter No. 3425 *Auditor's Manual for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS)* [3].

The first part of annex 3 of Circular Letter 3425 concerns VTS and AtoN issues (SOLAS V/12 and V/13) and is an annex to document MSC 81/24/1 [4], submitted by IALA in March 2006. Annex 3 hasn’t been revised since.

The second part of annex 3 concerns hydrographic surveys, nautical charting and maritime safety information (SOLAS V/2, V/4 and V/9) and is an annex to document MSC 81/24/4, submitted by IHO.

# Discussion

During VTS49 the Chair and Vice Chair of the VTS Committee considered the request from ARM11 to revise IMSAS Manual and propose a VTS related section for annex 3 as input to PAP. As the request could not be accomplished during the virtual meeting, the Chair decided to establish an inter-sessional group.

The first meeting was held on the 25 November 2020 with eight participants. The meeting considered that the document could be aligned, where relevant, with the revised but not yet approved IMO resolution on guidelines for vessel traffic services. The meeting found it important to relate to IALA Standards, Recommendations and Guidelines instead of the IALA manuals (NAVGUIDE and VTS MANUAL).

At the 2nd meeting and after further investigation, the Chair informed the participants that the concerned annex 3 of the Auditor's Manual IMSAS, referred to an old structure of the pre-audit questionnaire from resolution A.974(24) *Framework and Procedures for the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme* [5]*.* The resolution was no longer in force, but had been revoked in December 2013 by resolution A.1067(28) *Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme* [6], which still is in force.

The new resolution A.1067(28) has a new structure of the pre-audit questionnaire and focuses more on the responsibilities of the flag State, coastal State and port State. It is also more connected to the IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code) as described in resolution A.1070(28) [7], and which also was adopted in December 2013.

The Group realized that the revised work needed to be coordinated with ARM. The Chair of ARM Committee was informed and ARM participants were invited to join the work of the Group. The cooperation with ARM has worked very well throughout the inter-sessional work.

The Group, together with ARM participants, started to revise annex 3 to restructure the pre-audit questionnaire. The first task was to agree on what areas that were relevant as regards VTS and AtoN issues. Those areas were: General Information (VTS + AToN); Part 1 Common areas (VTS + AToN); Part 2 Flag State (VTS); Part 3 Coastal State (VTS + AtoN). Part 4 Port State was agreed of having no relevance to either VTS and AtoN.

The Group agreed that the questions should be divided into a VTS part and an AtoN part, as there are normally not the same authorities responsible for answering those areas. The introductory part was however merged between VTS and AtoN and it describes both SOLAS V/12 and V/13 together with IALA documentation in a more generic way before going into more detailed question about respective part.

As the draft should be forwarded to PAP before IALA submitting it to IMO, the work was forced with weekly meetings. The deadline for non-bulky documents (<6 pages) to MSC103 was set to the 2 March 2021 and the Group tried not to use too much text in order not to be bulky.

At the last meeting inputs were made to refer to IMO resolution A.857(20) [8] as regards VTS. This was discussed as the resolution is due for being revised at Assembly 32 in December 2021, when a new resolution is expected to be approved. Also both VTS authority and VTS provider were used in the draft which derive from both the present and the revised resolution. Comments on this were added for PAP and IALA secretariat to discuss further and decide accordingly. The IALA secretariat were also suggested to liaise with IMO on this as the group didn’t know when the revised IMSAS Manual was supposed to come into force – before or after A32.

A regards the second part of annex 3, IALA secretariat contacted IHO in the beginning of the work to inform them of IALAs ongoing revision of annex 3 and asked them if they would consider to revise their part of annex 3. There was no response from IHO during the inter-sessional work and it will therefore not be taken into consideration in IALAs submission.

The final draft of annex 3 from the Group was sent to PAP41 as requested on 2 February 2021 for their consideration and further action

The meeting documents are available on IALA dashboard and the final outcome will be published as an output paper from PAP.

The Chair would like to thank all 12 participants for their valuable input and dedicated work in order to finalize this specific task. A special thanks to the Chair of ARM Committee who made this revision possible at all.

# References

1. VTS49-3.2.7 Liaison Note to LAP PAP VTS on IMSAS manual post plenary (ARM11-13.0.3)
2. VTS49-3.2.7.1 Revised IMO Circ.letter IMSAS Manual post plenary (ARM11-13.0.3.1)
3. Circular letter No.3425 Auditor's Manual for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS)
4. MSC 81/24/1 Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IALA)
5. IMO Res. A.974(24) Framework and Procedures for the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme
6. IMO Res.A.1067(28) Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme
7. IMO Res.A.1070(28) IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III CODE)
8. IMO Res.A.857(20) Guidelines for vessel traffic services

# Action requested of the Committee

The ARM and VTS Committees are requested to note the information.

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-3)