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| From: ARM Committee | ENG14-3.2.1 (ARM13-11.2.5) |
| To: ENG, VTS, ENAV, PAP, LAP Committees | 28 April 2021 |

LIAISON NOTE

Update of IALA Maritime Buoyage System and other   
Marine Aids to Navigation (MBS), the future IALA Recommendation R1001.

# Introduction

The ARM Committee has undertook to review and update the current MBS in association with other IALA Committee(s) (task 1.5.1).

# Comments

The current MBS has been reviewed by the ARM Committee and it is considered that it requires a full update to reflect technical developments and the evolving use of new technology within Marine Aids to Navigation service delivery. This includes new user cases and emerging technologies, such as various categories of AIS AtoN and Mobile Aids to Navigation (MAtoN).

A thorough gap analysis was done to ensure the document has some longevity and that it still meets its principle purpose in providing guidance on the use and interpretation of AtoN. There are still six types of marks, which may be used alone or in combination. The document seeks to incorporate AIS AtoN and MAtoN, therefore describing standards for the four application types; fixed, floating, mobile (MAtoN) and electronic. There are some notable changes in the layout, particularly that each mark is described with its accompanying application specifications for ease of reference, the history has been condensed and the graphics to be updated with more realistic images. There is mention of use in the autonomous world, noting that IALA follows IMO guidance.

Regarding the current title “IALA-AISM, Maritime Buoyage System and other Aids to Navigation”, the Committee would propose to update the title to align with other IALA documents in order to increase standardisation throughout, therefore adding the word “Marine”; “IALA-AISM, Maritime Buoyage System and other Marine Aids to Navigation”. We understand that the definition of Marine AtoN includes VTS, hence the reason for keeping the word “other” in order to demonstrate that the list is inclusive yet not exhaustive.

IALA Recommendation R1001 shall comply with the new IALA document structure. Therefore, “The MBS” will be written as an annex to the R1001, in order that the content stands independently and can be used as a reference within IMO/IHO.

All input to date has been considered, changes have been applied where applicable. The document will be distributed primarily in a digital version, and updated in the next review cycle. The document is referenced in IMO SOLAS and needs Council approval prior to a new edition.

The current draft of R1001 (word document) as well as an example of the envisioned visual layout (PDF) are attached to this liaison note as an annex.

# Action requested

The committees, PAP and LAP are requested to:

1. Review the draft Recommendation for both editorial and technical content;
2. Review proposal for change of title;
3. Provide pictures (with proprietary rights and high definition quality) to include as examples; and
4. Provide feedback to ARM14.