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| From: DTEC committee | ARM19-8.4.4  DTEC3-11.2.1.2 |
| To: ARM committees |

LIAISON NOTE ARM on IMO MSC Circular on MRN

**1 SUMMARY**

The DTEC Committee has been working on a draft MSC Circular on the use of Maritime Resource Names (MRN), and forwarded draft documents to ARM18 for comment. At ARM18, some further work on the documents was undertaken, with an eye towards finalizing the draft document for submission to IMO NCSR12 (late Spring 2025).

During the discussions at DTEC3, it was noted that NCSR12 does not have an appropriate agenda under which the draft circular could be submitted. The IMO Secretariat advised DTEC that submitting the document under the "Any Other Business" category in its current form might not be feasible as it contains a proposal for the development of a new IMO instrument therefore, such work would normally require a new work output to be approved by the IMO Maritime Safety Committee. As a result, the following options were explored:

• Directly informing relevant international organizations about MRN and the available IALA guidance (e.g., IHO, WMO, etc.) via liaison notes: The group discussed this option and agreed that it would be an effective short-term strategy.

• Submitting the draft circular under the NCSR Sub-Committee agenda item “Consideration of Descriptions of Maritime Services in the context of e-Navigation” by adding it as an annex to an existing document, such as MSC.1/Circ. 1610/Rev.1 or resolution MSC.467(101): However, the IMO Secretariat advised that this approach might not be successful given the scale and scope of the proposed amendments and the provisions of the MSC’s method of work. Moreover, DTEC expressed concerns that this option would have a limited impact in raising awareness of MRN among IMO Member States.

• Submitting a new work output proposal to MSC110 or MSC111 to include a new work item in the NCSR Sub-Committee’s agenda: Although this would take longer, DTEC felt it would have a more significant impact.

DTEC concluded that pursuing both options 1 and 3 would be the best course of action. However, during discussions, it became clear that the IALA MRN guidance may need to be revised before being shared more broadly with other international organizations. Specifically, DTEC agreed that the current MRN syntax specification in G1143 and requirements in G1164 might not be ideal, as it mandates that every OID owner implement the "type" attribute. While this may be useful in some cases (such as within the IALA domain), WG1 felt it should be an optional attribute, given that its mandatory implementation provides no clear benefit and should remain at the owner’s discretion.

DTEC also offered their support to ARM in the further development of a possible MSC new work output proposal and amending the IALA guidelines. It was proposed to establish an inter-committee task group to collaborate on this work.

Finally, the current draft of the draft NCSR submission was reviewed and DTEC made minor changes to the document for future use.

**2 ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COMMITTEE**

The ARM Committee is requested to:

1 Consider the information provided and act as appropriate.

2 Discuss the proposal to establish an inter-committee task group and take action as appropriate.