Recommendation V-103 - on the Standards for Training and Certification of VTS Personnel

May 1998 – Revised December 2009

**Annex**

**The Standards for Training and Certification of VTS Personnel**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 General**

International shipping operations need a common approach and universally agreed professional standards and competence for the delivery of Vessel Traffic Services (VTS). The successful delivery of such services depends upon competent and experienced personnel to discharge the responsibilities of a VTS Authority. Recognising that VTS personnel are members of a profession whose principle interaction is with mariners and maritime pilots for the safe management of maritime traffic, their competence needs to reflect that professional responsibility.

The recruitment, selection and training of suitable personnel is a pre-requisite to the provision of professionally qualified personnel capable of contributing to safe and efficient marine operations. Such personnel will help to ensure that full and due regard is given to the diverse tasks inherent in VTS activities.

This recommendation sets out the training requirements and certification standards for VTS personnel. These should be implemented by national members and other appropriate Authorities to ensure that uniform standards of procedures, practices and professional standards are applied by Vessel Traffic Services world-wide.

**1.2 Objectives**

*Competent and / or VTS authorities are encouraged to adopt this Recommendation together with the associated model courses as the basis for mandatory training in a manner consistent with their domestic legal framework*

The objectives of this recommendation are to provide a basis:

• for VTS Authorities when recruiting VTS personnel;

• for model courses to establish a training programme on the specific knowledge and skill requirements necessary for qualification as a VTS Operator;

• to ensure that VTS personnel are trained and qualified to enable them to perform the tasks required;

• for maintaining a satisfactory level of operational performance through the systematic provision of refresher and/or revalidation training for qualified personnel;

• to regularly assess VTS Operators ability to perform to established and recognised standards and;

• for a structured career progression for VTS personnel.