

STANDARDS FOR VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICES

Purpose

This Standard provides the framework to harmonise the delivery of Vessel Traffic Services worldwide through providing guidance for governments to give full and complete effect to their obligations under international instruments through citation in promulgating laws and regulations related to the delivery of vessel traffic services.

Further, the Standard provides the means to improve the safety and efficiency of navigation, safety of life at sea and the protection of the marine environment by:

- Ensuring consistency in the delivery of services to vessels moving from one vessel traffic service area to another throughout the world., and
- Providing the framework to ensure that services are consistent, safe, reliable and are effective.

Framework

The principles of the Standards for Vessel Traffic Services are that competent authorities:

1. Are fully aware of their obligations under SOLAS Chapter V (Safety of Navigation) Regulation 12 regarding the delivery of vessel traffic services.
2. Are empowered through domestic laws and regulations to give full and complete effect to international instruments relating to vessel traffic services and for taking all other steps which may be necessary to ensure safety of life at sea and protection of the marine environment. In particular, to provide for:
 - Authorisation and auditing of VTS Authorities;
 - Accreditation and auditing of VTS training organisations, including the approval of associated model courses;
 - Provision of reports and information to a VTS Authority by specified persons in relation to matters including the identity, intended passage and geographical location of vessels, where participation is mandatory.
3. Comply with their responsibilities under international instruments and associated IALA Recommendations and Guidelines, as amended, prescribed at:
 - <IALA website listing applicable Recommendations and Guidelines>
4. Can demonstrate compliance with international instruments through an accepted audit process under a quality management system umbrella.