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Agenda item 11

Technical Domain / Task Number

Author(s) / Submitter(s) Australian Maritime Safety Authority

VTS Manual

# Summary

## Purpose of the document

The purpose of this paper is to provide input for the consideration of the VTS Committee with regards to the format and content of the next VTS Manual – VTS Manual 2010.

# Background

The revision of the VTS Manual is essentially a standing item on the VTS Committees agenda, culminating in the release of a revised Manual every 4 years.

The 7th Edition of the Manual (VTS Manual 2016) was approved by Council at its meeting in May 2016 and will be released at VTS 2016 in August.

# Discussion

The purpose of the VTS Manual is to provide guidance and advice to assist authorities considering the implementation of a new Vessel Traffic Service or the upgrading of an existing service. It provides a point of reference to all who are in any way involved with the policy for provision, operation and effectiveness of VTS, including those with management responsibility at national level and those who deliver services to the mariner.

The VTS Manual is a large document (some 160 pages). It is available in both hard and soft copy versions and takes the Committee several years to review and update for each four yearly release.

By its very nature, the Manual may marginally out-of-date with the suite of IALA Recommendations and Guidelines the day it is released and continues to date as revised or new Recommendations/Guidelines are released during the 4 year life cycle of the Manual.

To address these issues for the release of the next edition of the Manual it is suggested that consideration be given to migrating to an electronic document structure that:

* Provides succinct, high level guidance on the implementation and operation of VTS, and
* Provides an electronic link to the applicable IALA Recommendations and Guidelines associated with individual chapters for more detailed information on specific subjects.

A key advantage of migrating to a modern electronic format is that it provides a ready mechanism to ensure the Manual is up-to-date and in-synch with new and/or amended Recommendations and Guidelines as they are released. In particular an electronic online version of the manual:

* Could easily be updated during the four yearly work term by the committees as new/revised guidance is approved by Council.
* Would negate the need to extensively quote/re-word the information provided in relevant Recommendation/Guidelines by simply providing a link to the actual document.

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to consider migrating the VTS Manual to an electronic document structure that provides succinct, high level and comprehensive guidance to compliment the new IALA documentation structure (Standards/Recommendations and Guidelines) for the release of the next edition.