Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-1) VTS46-8.2.4.3

Input paper for the following Committee(s): check as appropriate Purpose of paper:

**□** ARM **□** ENG **□** PAP **X** Input

**□** ENAV **X** VTS **□** Information

Agenda item [[2]](#footnote-2) 8.2.4.3

Technical Domain / Task Number 2 1.2.3

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

Develop a Guideline for Promulgating the Requirements of a VTS to Mariners – A VTS users Guide Template

# Summary

The development of a Guideline for Promulgating the Requirements of a VTS to Mariners – A VTS users Guide Template commenced in October 2018 as part of the Committee’s 2018-2022 Work programme.

## Purpose of the document

The purpose of this paper is to provide input for the consideration of the VTS Committee in developing the guideline for promulgating information of a VTS to mariners (Task 1.2.3).

## Related documents

Related documents include:

* *VTS45-12.2.2 WG1 working paper task 1.2.3*
* *VTS46-7.2 VTS Task Register 2018-2022 20181004*

# Background

The Task Register states that the expected outcome of this Task is an IALA guideline providing guidance for VTS authorities to promulgate the operational requirements of a VTS in a globally consistent manner via an agreed template.

# Discussion

In reviewing the draft Guideline and associated template, the following comments/questions are provided for the Committee’s consideration:

1. **Draft Guideline**

* The link between the template and the promulgation of the VTS’s operational requirements is not clear. Is the intention for the template to be used globally by VTS’s to:
  + Promulgate their operational requirements in local publications (e.g. in their Port User Guides, electronically on their websites, etc.);
  + Provide their operational requirements for inclusion in other sources (e.g. ALRS);
  + Provide a template for other sources (e.g. ALRS) to promulgate the operational requirements; or
  + A combination of the above?
* Publication of VTS Operational requirements in multiple publications (eg port user guides, ALRS, Hydrographic charts/ENCs, etc) raises a number of issues, such as:
  + Duplication – overloading mariners with the same information from multiple sources
  + Document Control – ensuring all sources are maintained and updated simultaneously in a timely manner
  + Engaging/negotiating with ALRS and other nautical publications on using the template
  + Validity – How to manage information promulgated by other sources for a “VTS” which has not been authorised by a Competent Authority.

1. **Draft Template**

* There is little guidance provided on how the fields are to be completed. This could lead to information provided in widely varying formats and possibly to creating a lengthy document.

Consideration should be given to including a framework for providing each item. For example, in completing Item 4 – Reports to VTS, the reporting format could reflect the telegraphy items as provided in IMO Resolution A.851(20) General Principles for Ship Reporting Systems and Ship Reporting Requirements. For example:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 4. Reports to VTS  （may choose some items if need） | Report Type | Report Contents  *(List IMO telegraphy items as per IMO Resolution A.851(20) General Principles for Ship Reporting Systems and Ship Reporting Requirements)* |
| 4.1 Pre-entry report |  |
| 4.2 Arrival report | E.g. A,B,C,F,G, H,I.K,L,M,O,P,Q,U and X |
| 4.3 Departure report |  |
| 4.4 Deficiency report |  |
| 4.5 Emergency report |  |
| 4.6 Other report |  |

1. **Other Comments**

* ENCs

Embedding VTS information (eg boundaries, publications) within ENC layers should encouraged to assist in promulgating information to mariners with minimal burden.

* Centralise VTS information into one database

Consideration be given to establishing a central database for users to update information and allow other entities such as hydrographic agencies to retrieve relevant information via a web service environment. This would facilitate greater consistency and standardisation.

A central database would also allow mariners to readily access information about VTS’s around the world.

Consideration would need to be given as to who should host/maintain such a database?

* Aligning the template with the revision of IMO Resolution A.857(20)

This revision provides an opportunity to reduce the confusion associated with “Types of Service”. It would be timely to remove references to INS, TOS and NAS from the template.

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to consider the comments provided above in progressing Task 1.2.3 - Develop a Guideline for Promulgating the Requirements of a VTS to Mariners – A VTS users Guide Template.

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-2)