**TASK 3.8.8 English Language Competency requirements and assessment in VTS operations and training**

| **VTS Committee Work Programme 2022-2026** | | | |
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| **Standard** | Vessel Traffic Services | | |
| **Topic Area** | VTS Training (WG3） | | |
| **Task** | English Language Competency requirements and assessment in VTS operations and training. | | |
| **Objectives of the task** | * Assess current English language competency guidance for VTS (SMCP, G1132) * ~~Determine~~ Review the English language competency requirements for VTS Personnel * Determine options for guidance on the application of standard phraseology in VTS for all VTS Personnel. * Provide guidance to train/teach standard phraseology in VTS, as identified in SMCP and IALA G1132 (i.e. VTS model course, VTS train the trainer) * Consider use of, or development of, VTS specific English competency assessments for all VTS Personnel.   Joint participation of Operations (WG1) and Technology (WG2) may be required. | | |
| **Expected outcome** | guidance on training in the use of standard phraseology in VTS.  New guidance (proposed) on the approach for; development of; or provision of a VTS specific English language assessment. | | |
| **Compelling need** | Existing IALA documentation provides a level of English language competency to be achieved in some model courses. C0103-1 requires the International English Language Test System (IELTS), level 5 or its equivalent~~, and C0103-2 (V-103/2) requires IELTS level 6, or its equivalent~~. These levels were agreed several years ago following significant discussion.  Recent study by Korea Coast Guard highlighted the need to review training and assessment of English Language in VTS | | |
| **Strategic Alignment** | Goal  G1 – Marine Aids to Navigation are developed and harmonised through international cooperation and the provision of standards.  Strategy  S2 - Position IALA as the source of standards, knowledge, and expertise that will enable States to provide Marine Aids to Navigation, in accordance with relevant international obligations and recommendations.  S6 - Improve and harmonise the delivery of VTS globally and in a manner consistent with international conventions, national legislation and public expectations, to ensure the safety and efficiency of vessel traffic and to protect the environment. | | |
| **Scope** | **In Scope:**  A presentation (or workshop) of the study put forth by the Korea Coast Guard.  All proposed documentation and guidance will align with IMO SMCP, IALA G1132 VTS Voice Communications and Phraseology and with reference to IALA G1156 (section 5.1 – Selection Process)  Additional IALA documents that may require revision include G1017, G1027, G1089 and relevant IALA VTS Model Courses.  Within the guidance, develop an approach to language proficiency and standard communication phrases which is expected to include:   * Training * Assessment * Other documentation as may be appropriate   Examples of assessments (test questions) and best practices will be discussed for inclusion as an annex in the guidance. | | |
| **Brief and concise description of the work to be undertaken and programme mile­stones** | Revision of existing IALA Guidance on use of English Language  Revision of existing or preparation of a new IALA guideline with a focus on the teaching and assessing of English in VTS.  Key milestones include:   * (VTS 54) --Scope Task and workshop on VTS specific English language assessments (if available) * (VTS 55) -- Draft documents prepared * (VTS 56) – Improve Draft documents * (VTS57) -- Improve Draft documents * Planned revision of IMO SMCP * (VTS 58) -- Draft guidance reviewed by VTS Committee and forwarded to Council for approval.   \*Additional time will be needed if test materials are to be developed | | |
| **Expected numbers of sessions for completion** | *Session number:*  *54 55 56 57 58 59 60*  X  X  X  X  --  -  X | | |
| **Committee notes** | **Origins** | VTS51  See VTS53-6.3.1 from Korea Coast Guard | |
|  | **Agreed by session** | **TD#** | **Comments** |
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|  | **Approved by Council** | *(Council Session)* | *(Date)* |
|  | **Revision Notes:** |  | |