

# GUIDELINE

**G1144**

## GUIDELINE FOR PROMULGATING THE REQUIREMENTS OF A VTS TO MARINERS – A VTS USERS GUIDE TEMPLATE

**Edition 1.0**

**June 2019**

# DOCUMENT HISTORY

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Revisions to this IALA document are to be noted in the table prior to the issue of a revised document.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

IMO Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services states that VTS authorities should publish and provide mariners with full detailed information with respect to the VTS and the procedures to be followed in the VTS area. This includes such items as:

- the categories of vessels required or expected to participate;
- communication means to be used for reporting and the interaction between ship and shore;
- areas of applicability;
- the times and geographical positions for submitting reports;
- the format and content of the required reports;
- the VTS authority responsible for the operation of the service; and
- services to be provided to participating ships.

This information is currently provided through various sources (e.g. port user guides, Admiralty List of Radio Signals, etc) and in a manner that has no standardised structure or format.

It should however be recognized that the organization of the service provision may differ on national, regional or local level due to e.g. traffic density and geographical circumstances.

The use of differing vessel traffic service procedures may cause confusion to masters of vessels moving from one vessel traffic service area to another.

## 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of this document is to provide guidance for VTS authorities to promulgate the information related to a VTS in a concise and globally harmonised manner to:

- reduce the burden on masters in obtaining the requirements of a VTS, and
- minimise confusion to the masters of vessels moving from one vessel traffic service area to another.

## 3. INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

### 3.1. CONTENTS OF THE FRAMEWORK

In setting this framework, it was recognised that VTS information is published in a variety of nautical publications that are widely made available to the mariner in addition to being published by individual VTS Authorities. In the latter case, the data provided may refer only to the local VTS area. It is important that mariners have timely access to the range of information and procedures that may be required when entering or passing through a VTS area, this may include information about vessels that may be encountered in the area.

VTS authorities are advised to consider the extent and means of publishing information about the services that they provide. In particular, they should ensure that all potential VTS users are fully informed about the services, the facilities available and the reporting requirements on the vessels and their movements when approaching or entering a VTS area.

VTS authorities should maintain up-to-date information in the appropriate nautical publications e.g. Admiralty List of Radio Signals.

A template for promulgating this information is at Annex A.

Reports required should be consistent with IMO Resolution A.857(20).



### 3.2. PROMULGATION AND DELIVERY OF THE INFORMATION

This information should be promulgated and published in the appropriate nautical publications or by other means, e.g. websites, AIS, ECDIS, and other digital transfer media, etc.

## 4. ACRONYMS

IMO	International Maritime Organization
VTs	Vessel Traffic Services
SOLAS	IMO Convention on Safety of Life at Sea, as amended
IALA	International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities

## 5. REFERENCES

- [1] IMO Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services.
- [2] IMO Resolution A.851(20) General Principles for Ship Reporting Systems and Ship Reporting Requirements Including Guidelines for Reporting Incidents Involving Dangerous Goods, Harmful Substances and/or Marine Pollutants.

## ANNEX A    VTS USERS GUIDE TEMPLATE

**Note** – Examples are provided in *italics*.

[VTS Identifier] Users Guide			
<b>1. Summary</b>	1.1 VTS Identifier	Refer to Guideline 1083 – Standard Nomenclature to identify and refer to VTS centres. <i>Dalian VTS</i>	
	1.2 Coverage of VTS area	Describe the VTS area as outlined in item 6.	
	1.3 Service time	<i>24hours/7days</i> <i>Between 06:00 and 18:00 Monday to Friday (Local Time)</i>	
<b>2. Ships required to participate</b>	2.1 Mandatory	<i>.1 All ships of 50 m or greater in overall length;</i> <i>.2 All ships, regardless of length, carrying in bulk hazardous and/or potentially polluting cargo, in accordance with the definitions at resolution MSC.433(98).</i>	
	2.2 Non-Mandatory	Is voluntary participation accepted/encouraged? Yes/No	
<b>3. VHF Working Channels</b>  (refer to the chartlet in part 6)	<b>Area</b>	<b>Callsign</b>	<b>VHF Channel</b>
	<i>Medway light buoy area</i>	<i>Medway VTS</i>	<i>74</i>
	<i>Dolphin Sector</i>	<i>London VTS</i>	<i>14</i>
	....	....	....
<b>4. Reporting Requirements</b>  (reports may be supplemented by other means, e.g. AIS, email, etc..)	<b>Type of Report</b>	<b>Information Required</b>	
	<i>Sailing plan</i> <i>Position report</i> <i>Deviation report</i> <i>Final report</i> <i>Dangerous goods report</i> <i>Harmful substances report</i> <i>Marine pollutants report</i> <i>Any other report</i>	<i>A, B, C ..... using telegraphy as per appendix to A.851(20)</i>	
<b>5. Additional information the VTS promulgates (if any)</b>	....		
<b>6. Chartlet for [...] VTS area</b> The chartlet may include VTS area, sectors, if any, reporting lines/points, VHF channels, etc. If a chartlet is unavailable, a description should be provided.			

Provided by:

Date of issue: