Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-1) VTS44-3.2.3

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

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

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

Agenda item [[2]](#footnote-2) (from agenda) n.n

Workplan Task Number / Technical Domain 2 …………………………………

Working Group WG 3…………………………

Author(s) / Submitter(s) The Nautical Institute – J Carson-Jackson …

Title of paper

# Summary

The Nautical Institute is an international representative body for maritime professionals involved in the control of sea-going ships. The Institute provides a wide range of services to enhance the professional standing and knowledge of members who are drawn from all sectors of the maritime world.

The Nautical Institute has been accrediting specialised courses since the 1980s, with a major focus on dynamic positioning qualifications. The Nautical Institute is now the world leader in dynamic positioning qualifications, certifying that many thousands of operators have received the right training and experience. In addition to accreditation for dynamic positioning qualifications, the Institute provides accreditation of training in oil spill response, and has recently implemented an accreditation scheme for Ice Navigation training. In addition, the Institute offers a recognition scheme, with approximately 65 individual courses reviewed and approved.

The Nautical Institute amended its constitution in 2012 to recognise, as full members, VTS Operators or Managers, on the basis of successful completion of the IALA model courses.

The Nautical Institute has a memorandum of understanding with IALA. The two organisations are active in supporting areas of common interest.

## Purpose of the document

This paper provides information on the accreditation expertise within the Nautical Institute and proposes looking at possible synergies with IALA in the accreditation of IALA Model Courses.

In addition, the document notes the publications of The Nautical Institute, and identifies the possible development of a VTS handbook to support the IALA recommendations and guidelines, and to complement the IALA VTS Manual.

## Related documents

In addition to The Nautical Institute publications and accreditation information, IALA related documents include:

* IALA Recommendation V-103 and associated model courses;
* IALA WWA strategy; the Nautical Institute Strategic Plan
* IALA Guideline 1014 – Accreditation and Approval Process for VTS Training (Dec 2011)
* IALA Recommendation O-149 – Accreditation of training organisations (Dec 2016)
* IALA Guideline 1100 – Accreditation and Approval Process for Aids to Navigation Personnel Training (May 2013)

# Background

The Nautical Institute and IALA have worked for many years to recognise and promote areas of common interest, with a specific focus on VTS, VTS training and e-Navigation. The Nautical Institute has over 30 years of experience in accreditation of both training organisations and training programs for specialist, professional maritime training. Through discussions with both the IALA Secretary General and the Dean of the IALA World-Wide Academy (IALA WWA) it has been identified that there may be opportunity to explore synergies between IALA and The Nautical Institute with regards to accreditation.

The work in accreditation over more than 30 years has raised the profile of The Nautical Institute internationally. The Nautical Institute approaches accreditation on a cost recovery basis, making use of the specialised accreditation team within the Institute’s headquarters to manage the programs, as well as accessing the expertise of the extensive NI membership network to facilitate cost-effective on-site accreditation.

# Discussion

The Nautical Institute approaches accreditation in two stages – accreditation of the training institute to deliver the specialised training and then accreditation of the individual courses. The Institute currently has accredited 94 centres for the provision of Dynamic Position training delivery, each centre has an average of 3 courses approved for delivery. In addition, the Institute has accredited 35 centres for oil spill response training.

The Institute also has a recognition scheme. The recognitions scheme complements accreditation that may have been provided by another organisation where the training institute desires the added value of having training recognised by The Nautical Institute. There are currently 65 individual courses that have been reviewed and approved under the recognition scheme.

In advance of the introduction of the Polar Code, the Nautical Institute developed an Ice Navigation training scheme, which was launched in the second quarter of 2017. A standard for two levels of Ice Navigation has been developed. Certification activity has begun to recognise mariners with existing ice navigation skills. Accreditation for new training has not yet begun.

## Accreditation of VTS and Aids to Navigation Training

IALA Recommendation O-149 recommends that Authorities consider accrediting and approving VTS and AtoN training organisations, as described in IALA Guidelines (Recommends 1), and that Training Organisations who deliver training based on the IALA suite of Model Courses should seek accreditation and approval.

While the accreditation process identifies the Authority as providing accreditation, it is recognised that some authorities may not have the necessary, specialised skills to carry out accreditation activities.

There could be some opportunity to explore synergies between IALA and the Nautical Institute on accreditation of training institutes, and training courses, based on the suite of IALA Model Courses.

## Publications

The Nautical Institute is a major maritime publisher with over 200 titles to its credit. Many of these books have become industry standards and are acknowledged by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). The hallmark of Institute publications is that they are 'Practical Guides' written by practitioners for practitioners. Some examples include the Simulation Instructors Handbook; the Work of the Harbour Master; Maritime Security and Polar Operations.

IALA publishes specific categories of publications, including Recommendations, Guidelines and Manuals. The IALA VTS Manual is a core document for all aspects of VTS, and is updated on a regular basis.

In collaboration with IALA, The Nautical Institute could develop and publish a VTS handbook to complement the existing IALA VTS Manual. This VTS handbook would be similar to the other practical guides currently in publication, with a focus on VTS and VTS training.

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to note the information presented and consider:

1. Identifying synergies related to accreditation for VTS training, including identifying the Nautical Institute as an organisation providing accreditation of training institutes and training courses for VTS;
2. The proposed development and publication of an NI publication to support VTS as a complementary element to the IALA VTS manual (an NI VTS Handbook).
3. Other areas where there may be further synergies between IALA and the Nautical Institute related to training, accreditation and publications.

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Input papers should be assigned to a work task as listed in the Committee work plan which is available in input papers. Leave open if uncertain but consider how the paper is to be processed if not relevant to a work task [↑](#footnote-ref-2)