Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-2) VTS51-9.1.2

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

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

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

Agenda item [[2]](#footnote-3) 9.1

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

Author(s) / Submitter(s) …TG…1.1.1.3.……………

Task 1.1.1.3 - Review and update Recommendation R0120 (V-120) Vessel Traffic Services in Inland Waters to be a Guideline

# Summary

Task Group 1.1.1.3 have completed the draft of a new guideline to replace Recommendation R0120 – Vessel Traffic Services in Inland Waters.

The attached draft guideline is submitted to the VTS Committee for consideration, silent approval and forwarding to Council for approval.

# Background

As part of the review of IALA documentation relating to VTS to align with the new IMO resolution for VTS in expected to be adopted by Assembly later this year (Task 1.1.1.2) it was identified that *Recommendation R0120* should be reconfigured as a Guideline to align with the new IALA document structure and updated as appropriate, noting the existing version has not been reviewed since 2013.

In discussion with the VTS Committee chair, IHMA undertook to lead an update of this document so that it could be included with the package of documents to be prepared for issue after adoption of the new resolution. This was identified as a new sub-task, Task 1.1.1.3, to the existing Task 1.1.1.

Coincidentally, UNECE contacted IALA with regard to their intention to update UNECE Resolution No. 58 “Guidelines and Criteria for Vessel Traffic Services on Inland Waterways”. As a result, UNECE were invited to participate in this task to update IALA Recommendation R0120.

# Discussion

The following members of the VTS Committee and UNECE participated in intersessional work post VTS50 on Task 1.1.1.3:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Barry Goldman | IHMA (Chair) |
| Evgeny BRODSKIY | Volga-Baltic Inland Waterway Administration, Russian Federation (UNECE) |
| Igor GLADKYKH | National University, Odessa Maritime Academy, Ukraine (UNECE) |
| Jur JANSE | NL - Rijkswaterstaat VWM |
| Liu WEI | China MSA |
| Neil Trainor | AMSA |
| Xu MAOWEN | China MSA |
| Victoria IVANOVA | UNECE |
| Yixiang ZHANG | China MSA |

In reviewing the document, it was acknowledged that, not only should the Recommendation V-120 be restructured as an IALA guideline, but that the current document inappropriately cut and pasted selected extracts from other IALA Recommendations and Guidelines. This had the disadvantage of both becoming increasingly out of date and also gave the impression that only those issues copied into the document were relevant to inland waters with no further research on IALA documentation being necessary.

It was, therefore, agreed that the basic premise of the document should be

* only to reference relevant IALA documents rather than quoting from them; and
* to identify particular considerations where greater emphasis or variations on general VTS guidance might be necessary in the inland waters environment.

Having established a basic framework for the document, it was further decided to link the new guideline closely to the IALA VTS Manual, for which the revised format provided an ideal link.

Whilst the number of participants in this task group was comparatively small, it had the benefit of participation from VTS Committee members who were practitioners from nations with good knowledge and experience of the inland waters environment. In addition, the participation of three representatives from UNECE has been invaluable in developing a useful and constructive guideline.

The draft guideline follows the IALA format and style for guidelines. It should, however, be noted that some definitions were so unique to inland waters and critical to the understanding of the guideline that they should be included in the definitions section following the standard statement referring readers to the IALA Dictionary. These definitions should also be added to the IALA Dictionary following Council approval of the document.

It is the view of Task Group members that this guideline is now in a mature state ready for consideration by the VTS Committee with a view to it progressing to silent approval at VTS51 and forwarding to Council for approval.

The Task Group would welcome any comment on the draft prior to VTS51 to ensure that it is ready to go forward to silent approval. In particular, VTS Committee members are invited to note that this document draws on some examples or reference to UNECE standards and definitions; other examples would be welcome for inclusion if available.

# References

1. C70-11.4.3 - Updates to IALA VTS documentation post adoption of the revised IMO Resolution on Vessel Traffic Services

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to:

1. Forward any comment on the draft guideline to IHMA as the lead for Task 1.1.1.3, [barry.goldman@btinternet.com](mailto:barry.goldman@btinternet.com), prior to VTS51; and
2. Approve the draft Guideline Gxxxx – VTS in Inland waters through the silent approval process at VTS51 for submission to Council for approval.

Enclosure

Draft Guideline Gxxxx – VTS in Inland Waters

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-3)