| **VTS Committee Work Programme 2022-2026** | | | |
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| **Standard** | Vessel Traffic Services | | |
| **Topic Area** | VTS Operations | | |
| **Task** | Guideline for VTS response to the public health emergencies | | |
| **Objectives of the task** | Provide references and advice for VTS to response to the public health emergencies.   * Internally, make VTS operating normally. * Externally, assist port health and epidemic prevention departments to cope with public health emergencies.   Joint task with WG 2 and WG 3.  *(Describe the objective/s of the task)* | | |
| **Expected outcome** | An IALA Guideline.  In case of local or global public health emergencies, VTS can respond quickly according to the guidelines, so as to help the port health and epidemic prevention departments to better deal with the epidemic，and at the same time handle internal epidemic prevention work properly.  *(Describe the expected outcome: e.g. Recommendation, Guideline or Other)* | | |
| **Compelling need** | * The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has brought great challenge to the normal operation of VTS and the whole shipping industry. * VTS, as a link between ship and shore, can take full use of the advantages of fast access to ship and shore information and real-time ship dynamics, and play an active role in assisting ports to cope with public health emergencies. * Currently, IALA does not have a guideline for VTS to respond to public health emergencies.   *(Describe briefly why this task should be included in the Work Programme)* | | |
| **Strategic Alignment**  *(See IALA Strategic Vision)* | **Goal**  G1 – Marine Aids to Navigation are developed and harmonised through international cooperation and the provision of standards.  **Strategy**  S1 - Develop standards suitable for direct citation by States, in areas deemed important by the General Assembly, and the related Recommendations and Guidelines.  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:**   * Establish of structure and content of the Guideline * To draft and align the guideline with the new IALA document structure * Associated with the implementation and operation of a VTS   **Out of scope:**  *(Describe key items that are in scope/out of scope)* | | |
| **Brief and concise description of the work to be undertaken and programme mile­stones** (where appropriate). | To prepare a new Guideline that provides a ‘road map” to assist VTS reference and incorporate IALA documentation when public health emergency outbreaks.  Provide recommendations for VTS to assist port health and epidemic prevention departments in responding to Public Health emergencies;  Key milestones include:   * March 2022(VTS52) – Scope Task and prepare skeleton. * October 2022(VTS53)– Draft document prepared * March 2023(VTS54) – Draft guideline reviewed by VTS Committee and forwarded to Council for approval. | | |
| **Expected numbers of sessions for completion** | Session number:  52 53 54 55 56 57 58  X  X  X | | |
| **Committee notes** | **Origins** | Requested by VTS Committee at VTS 49 | |
|  | **Agreed by session** | **TD#** | **Comments** |
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|  | **Approved by Council** | *(Council Session)* | *(Date)* |
|  | **Revision Notes:** |  | |