



IALA RECOMMENDATION (NORMATIVE)

R0127 (V-127) VTS OPERATIONS

Edition 3.2

January 2022

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DOCUMENT REVISION

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

Date	Details	Approval
25 May 2004	First issue.	Council 34
24 June 2011	Minor revisions throughout to maintain currency and ensure alignment with other new and updated IALA documentation.	Council 51
14 December 2018	Whole document, to conform to the new IALA documentation structure. Details were transferred to guideline G1141.	Council 68
September 2020	Edition 3.1 Editorial corrections.	
January 2022	Edition 3.2 Approved by Council December 2021 and published January 2022, in alignment with IMO Resolution A.1158(32) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services.	Council 74

THE COUNCIL

RECALLING

1. The function of IALA with respect to Safety of Navigation, the efficiency of maritime transport and the protection of the environment.
2. Article 8 of the IALA Constitution regarding the authority, duties and functions of the Council.

NOTING

1. IALA Recommendation *R0127 (V-127) - Operational Procedures for Vessel Traffic Services* provides practices for interactions between the VTS, participating vessels and allied services.
2. IALA guidelines related to VTS operations¹, including, but not necessarily restricted to:
 - G1141 VTS Operational Procedures.
 - G1089 Provision of a Vessel Traffic Service.
 - G1110 Use of Decision Support Tools for VTS Personnel.
 - G1131 Setting and Measuring VTS Objectives.
 - G1045 Staffing Levels at VTS Centres.
 - G1118 Marine Casualty / Incident Reporting and Recording, including Near-Miss Situations as it Relates to VTS.

RECOGNIZING that that IALA fosters the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels through improvement and harmonization of marine aids to navigation, including vessel traffic services, world- wide,

1. *The International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea 74/78 (SOLAS) Chapter V (Safety of Navigation) Regulation 12* provides for Vessel Traffic Services and states inter-alia that:
 - a. Vessel traffic services (VTS) contribute to safety of life at sea, safety and efficiency of navigation and protection of the marine environment, adjacent shore areas, work sites and offshore installations from possible adverse effects of maritime traffic.
 - b. Contracting Governments undertake to arrange for the establishment of VTS where, in their opinion, the volume of traffic or the degree of risk justifies such services.
 - c. Contracting Governments planning and implementing VTS shall, wherever possible, follow the guidelines developed by the Organization (i.e., IMO Resolution A.1158(32) *Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services*).

¹ Refer IALA Reference List

2. IMO Resolution A.1158(32) states that:
 - a. Vessel traffic services are provided worldwide and make a valuable contribution to safety of navigation, improved efficiency of traffic flow and the protection of the marine environment.
 - b. The level of safety and efficiency in the movement of maritime traffic within an area covered by vessel traffic services is dependent upon close cooperation between those operating the vessel traffic services and participating ships.
 - c. The use of differing procedures may cause confusion to ship masters, and that vessel traffic services should be established and operated in a harmonized manner and in accordance with internationally approved guidelines.
3. The level of safety and efficiency in the movement of maritime traffic within an area covered by a vessel traffic service would be enhanced by ensuring that VTS operations are harmonised to ensure the delivery of precise, simple and unambiguous communications to the bridge team and allied services.

CONSIDERING the proposals of the Vessel Traffic Services Committee.

ADOPTS Recommendation *R0127 (V-127) on VTS Operations*,

RECOMMENDS that competent authorities and VTS providers contribute to precise and unambiguous delivery of VTS operations with the traffic by implementing harmonized and standardized VTS operations.

INVITES members and competent authorities for vessel traffic services to implement the provisions of the Recommendation and its associated guidelines on VTS Operations.

REQUESTS the Vessel Traffic Services Committee or such other committee as the Council may direct to keep this Recommendation under review and to propose amendments, as necessary.