



# IALA RECOMMENDATION (NORMATIVE)

## R0119 ESTABLISHMENT OF A VTS

### **Edition 4.2**

June 2022

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International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities  
Association Internationale de Signalisation Maritime



# DOCUMENT REVISION

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

Date	Details	Approval
December 2000	First issue	Council 25
July 2005	Edition 1.1 Reformatting to meet IALA documentation standards	
December 2009	Edition 2.0 Update document to reflect changes in VTS	Council 46
December 2019	Edition 3.0 Whole document, to conform to the new IALA documentation structure. Annex transferred into Guideline G1150.	Council 70
December 2020	Edition 4.0 Minor update to reflect revision of Guideline G1150 and consistency in the use of the terms “establishment”, “planning” and “implementing”.	Council 72
January 2022	Edition 4.1 Approved by Council December 2021 and published January 2022, in alignment with IMO Resolution A.1158(32) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services.	Council 74
June 2022	Edition 4.2 Minor update to reflect changes to an existing VTS	Council 75



# 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.

## RECOGNIZING:

- 1 That IALA Recommendation *R0119* provides the framework to assist competent authorities and vessel traffic service (VTS) providers when arranging for the establishment of a VTS.
- 2 IALA guidelines related to the establishment of a VTS include, but are not necessarily restricted to:
  - a G1150 Establishing, Planning and Implementing a VTS
  - b G1083 Standard nomenclature to identify and refer to a VTS
  - c G1142 The Provision of a Local Port Service other than a VTS
  - d G1166 VTS in Inland Waters

## NOTING:

- 1 That IALA fosters the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels through improvement and harmonization of marine aids to navigation, including VTS, world-wide.
- 2 The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974, Chapter V (Safety of Navigation), Regulation 12 provides for VTS 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 (IMO Resolution *A.1158(32) on Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services*).
- 3 IMO Resolution *A.1158(32) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services* recognizes, inter-alia, that:
  - a The level of safety and efficiency in the movement of maritime traffic within an area covered by a vessel traffic service is dependent upon close cooperation between those operating the vessel traffic service and participating ships.
  - b 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.



- c Contracting Governments are encouraged to take into account IALA standards and associated recommendations, guidelines and model courses.
- 4 The level of safety and efficiency in the movement of maritime traffic within an area covered by a VTS would be improved by ensuring that VTS are implemented in a standardized way to ensure the delivery of harmonized operations.

**CONSIDERING** the proposals of the VTS Committee.

**ADOPTS** the Recommendation *R0119 Establishment of a VTS*.

**RECOMMENDS** that competent authorities and VTS providers take into account IALA standards and associated recommendations and guidelines specifically related to the establishment and operation of VTS to contribute to achieving worldwide harmonization of VTS when arranging for the establishment of a VTS.

**REQUESTS** the IALA VTS Committee or other committees as the Council may direct, to keep this Recommendation under review and to propose amendments, as necessary.