



# RECOMMENDATION

R1012

VTS COMMUNICATIONS

**Edition 1.0**

**December 2017**

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



# DOCUMENT HISTORY

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

Date	Details	Approval
December 2017	1 <sup>st</sup> Issue	Council 65

# 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 that:

3. IALA Recommendation V-127 on Operational Procedures for Vessel Traffic Services provides practices for interactions between the VTS, participating vessels and allied services.
4. IALA Guideline 1089 on Provision of Vessel Traffic Services (INS, TOS & NAS) provides practical guidance to assist an authority with delivery of the three different types of services provided by a VTS (Information Service (INS), Traffic Organization Service (TOS) and Navigational Assistance Service (NAS)) to achieve consistency in the provision of the services worldwide in order to avoid confusion about the delivery of VTS services for the mariner trading between various jurisdictions.
5. IALA Guideline G1132 on VTS VHF Voice Communication provides guidance for Competent Authorities, VTS Authorities and training organizations to develop standardized operating procedures for communications and achieve best practice in effective VTS VHF voice communications.

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

6. 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 Organization (i.e. IMO Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services.
7. IMO Resolution A.857(20) recognises that:
  - a. The safety and efficiency of maritime traffic and the protection of the marine environment would be improved if vessel traffic services were established and operated in accordance with internationally approved guidelines.
  - b. The use of differing vessel traffic service procedures may cause confusion to masters of vessels moving from one vessel traffic service area to another.
8. 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 communications are harmonised through common phraseology, procedures and technology for 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 R1012 on VTS Communications.

**RECOMMENDS** that Competent Authorities and VTS Authorities contribute to precise and unambiguous communications with the traffic by implementing harmonized and standardized procedures and technology.

**INVITES** Members and Competent Authorities for Vessel Traffic Services to implement the provisions of the Recommendation and its associated guidelines on VTS communications.

**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.