

Terms of Reference for the Vessel Traffic Services Committee

Background

In accordance with the Convention, Article 6, 1 (c), the Organization shall have Committees and subsidiary bodies necessary to support the Organizations' activities. In Article 6.3, it is stated that the General Regulations and Financial Regulations shall detail the Rules of Procedure that shall apply for each organ which are detailed in Article 3 of the General Regulations.

Name of committee or subsidiary body

Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) Committee

Participation

Representatives from Member States, Associate Members and Affiliate Members are eligible to participate in the Committees. Representatives to the Committee may include personnel from the national Competent Authority for VTS, VTS providers, training organizations, manufacturers and practitioners.

Aims and Objectives

In accordance with the Convention Article 9.1, the Committee will support the aims and objectives of the Organization Article 3 of the Convention by:

- Providing guidance that assists Contracting Governments and competent authorities to meet their obligations under SOLAS Chapter V (Safety of Navigation) Regulation 12 to plan, implement and deliver VTS in a consistent and harmonized manner. Mitigating against the risks associated with the use of differing VTS procedures.
- Respond to technological and operational changes meeting emerging needs and developments.
- Produce standards, recommendations, guidelines, manuals and other appropriate documents specifically related to the establishment and operation of VTS to contribute to achieving its worldwide harmonization.

Activities

Committee meetings shall normally be held twice a year, normally at a period during February to April and September to November, at the seat of the Organization. Exceptionally they may be held elsewhere, with the approval of the Secretary-General.

Inter-sessional meetings of a working group or a task group may also be held between two meetings of the parent Committee in accordance with the General Regulations.

All activities may be organized in the format of either a physical, virtual or hybrid event.

Committees may propose events that will assist the work programme such as seminars, workshops and other events.

Deliverables

Each Committee shall develop and work to a work programme in accordance with the General Regulations, Article 3.2.

In accordance with Article 9 of the Convention the deliverables of the committees are:

- (a) Prepare and review standards, recommendations, guidelines, manuals and other appropriate documents identified in the work programmes;
- (b) Monitor developments in the area of Marine Aids to Navigation;
- (c) Facilitate the sharing of expertise and experience amongst Member States, Associate Members and Affiliate Members; and
- (d) Conduct any other tasks as decided by the Council.

Relationship with other bodies

Internal bodies

The Convention Article 7.7 (f) states, that the General Assembly establish and terminate Committees and subsidiary bodies and review and approve their Terms of Reference.

As stated in the General Regulations Article 3.4, output documents are documents completed by the Committee are approved by the Council or the General Assembly, in the case of standards. They include draft standards, recommendations, guidelines, manuals and other documents for submission to the Council for approval.

The Policy Advisory Panel (PAP) provides policy advice for consideration by the Council and coordinates the work of the committees.

The Legal Advisory Panel (LAP) provides legal support and advice to the committees, the Secretariat and other bodies of IALA.

A committee's progress with its work and achievement of its deliverables should be reported to the Council and the Policy Advisory Panel at regular intervals.

Committees should collaborate together on cross committee work items and developments.

External bodies

Committees shall monitor and assist developments relevant to VTS in bodies external to IALA, such as IMO and the IHO, if necessary to achieve the committees aims and objectives.