Definition of IALA document types

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| IALA Standard | 1. A standard is a normative document that provides requirements, specifications or characteristics that can be used consistently to ensure that materials, products, processes and services are fit for their purpose. A standard may be used either by direct application or by a process of modifying an international standard. 2. Standards are norms that should be followed by all Aids to Navigation providers in order to achieve global harmonisation. 3. IALA standards are normative documents, adherence to which will harmonize marine aids to navigation worldwide.   IALA standards may include technical standards or performance standards.  IALA technical standards establish uniform engineering or technical criteria, methods, processes or practices.  IALA performance standards are the benchmark against which actual or operational performance is to be measured. | Must do |
| IALA Recommendation | 1. A recommendation sets out the preferred course of action.   Recommendations provide direction to IALA members on uniform procedures and processes that will facilitate IALA objectives. Recommendations contain information on how the members should plan, operate and manage Aids to Navigation. Recommendations may reference relevant international standards and IALA Guidelines   1. Recommendations describe what IALA recommends AtoN providers to do in order to comply with IALA standards. 2. To implement IALA standards IALA recommendations define what should be done or considered. | Should do |
| IALA Guideline | Guidelines provide detailed, in-depth information on an aspect of a specific subject, indicating options, best practices and suggestions for implementation. | How to |
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