

Criteria and Requirements for Measures and Services within the VTM framework

WG4 on Vessel Traffic Management (VTM) at its 2nd Intersessional Meeting (20-23 January 2009) studied and developed criteria and requirements for measures and services which may be incorporated within the functional framework of VTM.

In order to develop and structure the framework, these criteria are to be used to identify existing and future measures and services that may belong to the VTM framework. Once measures and services within VTM are identified, they should conform to the requirements listed below.

WG4 further developed the definitions of VTM, arrangements, measures and services. Also a clarification of the generic term “Maritime Domain” within VTM was drafted.

1. Definition of VTM

1.1 Working definition by WG4 of VTS Committee¹

“Vessel Traffic Management is the functional framework of harmonized measures and services to enhance the safety, security, efficiency of shipping and the protection of the marine environment in all navigable waters”.

1.2 Clarification of the definition

The ***functional framework*** are the arrangements on a global, supranational, national and/or regional scale to set the conditions for safe, secure and efficient maritime traffic and for the enhancement of efficient and effective use of the resources engaged in order to enable the collaboration among the different public and private stakeholders involved. These arrangements should be consistent, coherent and recognized by present and future (inter)national legislation and guidelines.

Within the VTM framework ***arrangements*** are agreements or understandings between two or more stakeholders on the implementation of measures, the provision of services, the coordination of efforts, the allocation of resources and any other conditions needed to reach the aims to VTM.

¹ A working definition of VTM was developed by VTS26 and approved by the IALA Council at its 42nd session after slight modification:

[“Vessel Traffic Management is the strategic provision of a network of measures and services. The purpose is to enhance safety, security and efficiency of shipping, protection for the environment and functions of Vessel Traffic Services. These services and measures may be available globally”.]

During the process the WG felt that this definition limited the boundaries for defining and development of the scope of VTM. Therefore, as instructed by Council and the Chair of the VTS Committee, the WG kept the definition under constant review.

Measures within VTM are the efforts by Competent Authorities to set the conditions to be respected and the provision of services to meet the aims of VTM and the compelling needs of stakeholders within the maritime domain.

A **service within VTM** is an activity or a combination of activities, provided by one or more stakeholders within the maritime domain, for the benefit of VTM stakeholders to support their strategic, tactical and operational mission.

By way of clarification, in the context of VTM, "**Maritime domain**" is used as a generic term covering:

- all *geographical areas* (ocean, sea, coastal waters, harbour approaches, inland waters or all other navigable waterways),
- structures in, on, under or bordering these areas
- all *aspects* of maritime infrastructure in mentioned geographical areas (e.g. waterways, locks, bridges, specific traffic management arrangements)
- all *activities* relating to and/or adjacent to safety and efficiency of shipping, security onboard and ashore and the protection of the marine environment
- waterborne *Transport* of people and cargo and its handling
- the human factor

2. Criteria and Requirements for Measures and Services

2.1 Criteria for measures and services within VTM

In order to be considered a measure or service within the VTM framework, it must influence directly or indirectly:

- *The aims of VTM (onboard and ashore):*
 - Enhance safety
 - Enhance security
 - Enhance efficiency
 - Enhance protection of the marine environment

- *The needs and interests of VTM stakeholders*
 - The primary activities of stakeholders within the maritime domain (measures)
 - Work done by a VTM stakeholder to benefit other stakeholders (services)

2.2 Requirements for measures and services within VTM

Measures and services within VTM should meet the following requirements as appropriate:

- *Functionality*
 - Part of a functional framework
 - Appropriate to the functions of VTM
 - Delivers the intended results
 - Meet the needs of stakeholders in the maritime domain;
 - Involve or affect one or more VTM stakeholders

- *Harmonization:*
 - o In general be able to be part of arrangements with other measures and services and among stakeholders (subject to legislation or guidelines)
 - o Be developed/implemented/provided in a manner consistent with applicable guidelines
 - o Follow recognized and appropriate standards
 - o Clarity of purpose and intended results to those affected by the measure or receiving the service (transparency)
 - o Be developed in a collaborative manner (user driven), to address stakeholder needs and concerns and strive for consistency.

- *Assessable*
 - o To evaluate its effectiveness in quantity and/or quality

- *Feasibility*
 - o Applicable to VTM
 - o Practicable – appropriate to the situation
 - o Cost effective – the benefit is worth the effort or expense, including maintainability

- *Sustainability*
 - o Continuity – able to be continued – not just one-time measures

- *Availability*
 - o Made available to stakeholders as required to meet their needs

- *Reliability*
 - o Consistently available to the end user

- *Efficiency*
 - o Improve existing activities/measures/services
 - o Decrease workload onboard and/or ashore

Actions requested

WG4 of the VTS Committee invites the VTS Committee, the eNAV Committee and the ANM Committee to take notice, at their next sessions, of the results described above².

The mentioned Committees are also invited to send their comments and/or suggestions soonest to the Chair of WG4.

² Taking into account the tight timeframe for WG4 concerning the defining and development of the scope of the VTM concept this document, with the approval of the Chair of the VTS Committee, had to be sent directly to the Committees concerned.