

Input paper for the following Committee(s):      check as appropriate      Purpose of paper:

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## **Proposal for Developing "Guideline for Remote Training in VTS"**

### **1. SUMMARY**

The VTS Committee agreed to include in its 2023–2027 Work Programme the task to “Develop a guidance for remote training in VTS”. This document discusses the benefits and drawbacks of remote training for VTS personnel, with the analysis of issues in need of attention when conducting the remote training, and proposes the draft Guideline for Remote Training in VTS, as set out in the enclosures.

#### **1.1 Purpose of the document**

The purpose of this document is to provide reference for relevant work of the VTS Committee.

#### **1.2 Related documents**

VTS53-12.1.1 VTS COMMITTEE TASK PLAN 2023-2027.

VTS53-12.1.2 VTS COMMITTEE TASK REGISTER FOR 2023-2027.

VTS54-13.1 Report of the 54th session of the IALA Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) Committee.

IALA Recommendation: R0103 (V-103) Training and Certification of VTS Personnel.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it was difficult to conduct offline training and VTS authorities had to conduct remote training to meet the training demands of VTS personnel. Recently the advancement of the Internet and technology provides a variety of tools for the implementation of remote training for VTS personnel. It has also been proved through practice that remote training can be used in some scenarios to replace offline training, with equivalent training effect. However, IALA still lacks a unified standard or guideline to regulate the use of remote training in VTS.

### **3. DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1 Advantages of remote training**

- flexibility

Remote training is not restricted by time or geographic location. Such flexibility is especially important for trainees who are limited by training time or geographic location.

- personalization

When receiving training remotely, trainees are able to choose the pace and depth of learning to suit their own learning demands and styles, which would help increase their engagement and satisfaction.

- cost effectiveness

Compared with offline training, remote training is often more cost-effective, as it reduces the costs of travel, accommodation, and printing. The training materials can be easily shared and reused among trainees.

- reduced ecological footprint

Remote training also promotes green development since less paper materials, and less transportation and energy consumption is required, which helps to mitigate the adverse impact on the environment.

### **3.2 Shortcomings of remote training**

- technical limitations of network in some regions

The technical limitations of network in some countries or regions would prevent VTS personnel from having easy access to the equipment or networks required for remote training.

- security and privacy risks

There are security and privacy risks associated with remote learning tools, especially, which would be recognized as a potential threat and hidden danger for sensitive information and data.

- communication problems

The lack of face-to-face social interaction and real-time monitoring and feedback in remote training can jeopardize the effectiveness of learning.

## **4. PROPOSAL**

### **4.1 Considering the combination of remote training with diverse learning approach**

In the field of VTS, hands-on and practical experience is critical, which could not be fully realized by remote training. Therefore, it is proposed to adopt a combination of remote training with diverse learning approach, such as online courses, simulation exercises, and virtual training in the training process.

### **4.2 Considering establishing an evaluation mechanism for remote training**

In order to ensure the effectiveness of training, it is proposed to design appropriate online evaluation tools for assessing both the training effectiveness and the training tools and approach, to make sure that trainees could meet the training standards, and to ensure that the training is always up-to-date and efficient.

### **4.3 Developing Guideline for Remote Training in VTS to regulate remote training**

The Guideline for Remote Training in VTS to ensure that the same content and implementation standards could be adopted by competent authorities when conducting remote training.

## **5. ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee is invited to consider the present document and its enclosures.

## **6. ENCLOSURES**

VT55-10.1.1.1 Draft Guideline on Remote Training in VTS