

11 – TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

11.4 – VTS

Proposed changes to draft IALA Guideline G1149 on VTS training for deck officers

INTRODUCTION

At VTS47, the Committee completed work on the preparation of a draft Guideline on VTS training for deck officers. Since the approval by the VTS Committee of the draft Guideline, the Maritime Safety Division of the IMO has proposed to the IALA Secretariat some minor textual enhancements to strengthen the document and provide a stronger link to the IMO STCW Convention.

DISCUSSION

The draft Guideline on VTS training for deck officers provides options, suggestions and best practices that may be used by maritime training organisations in the development of training on VTS as an integral part of the training of deck officers. This document also provides examples of activities that could be used to facilitate effective communications and the exchange of information between the bridge team and the VTSO.

This Guideline also contains recommendations that complement the standard of competence provided in the STCW Code for the deck department in order to enhance their understanding of VTS. It could also be used by other relevant stakeholders, such as flag states, harbour and port organisations, pilot organisations and shipping companies.

Since the VTS Committee finalised the draft Guideline, the Maritime Safety Division of the IMO has contacted the Secretariat with some suggestions for minor textual enhancements to improve the document by strengthening the links to the IMO STCW Code. The proposed changes are shown below and are reflected in the draft Guideline itself (C70-11.4.4.1):

1.2 Application

This Guideline ~~applies primarily to the maritime education and training of bridge teams~~ contains recommendations that complement the standards of competence provided in the STCW Code for the deck department in order to enhance their understanding of VTS. It could also be used by other relevant stakeholders, such as flag States, harbour and port organisations, pilot organisations and shipping companies.

6 Training activities

VTS should be included in the mandatory national training programmes for deck officers developed in accordance with the provisions of the STCW Code, and be reflected in examination and assessment. VTS should also be included in other types of training – such as Bridge Resource Management, voyage planning, and voice communication.”

Furthermore, the IMO has suggested that IALA prepare an input paper to the IMO Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping to bring the new Guideline to the attention of member States and other interested organisations. This input paper will be finalised at VTS48.



The IALA Secretariat consider the changes as an improvement to the quality and technical strength of the document and recommends that the changes are approved by the Council. The Chair of the VTS Committee agrees with this recommendation.

THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

Note the proposed changes to the draft Guideline suggested by the IMO Maritime Safety Division and decide whether to include them in the final document as appropriate.