

07.06.2021

To: Chairs of VTS Committee and WG1  
From: Malin Dreijer behalf of WG1 Task Group 1.2.4

Dear Monica and Trond,

**Re: Task 1.2.4 - Provide VTS input to ARM (lead Committee) for the development of a Guideline on Maritime Services in the context of e-Navigation relating to VTS (merged with task 1.2.7)**

Work on Task 1.2.4 has been ongoing within the VTS Committee for over 5 years. During this period there have been significant developments on the concept of Maritime Services within both IMO and IALA and the task group has now reached a point where it is considered that there is a very real danger of significant effort being wasted on this task without further review and strategic direction on the scope of the task.

Lead on this task rests with the ARM Committee. The liaison note from the VTS Committee to ARM agreed at VTS50 was relatively anodyne in nature in recognition of the lack of dialog or agreement within the VTS Committee on the appropriate way forward required to reflect the new IMO VTS Guidelines once adopted.

**The task group has identified the following issues:**

- Is it appropriate for IALA to issue a guideline that comprises mainly a duplication of Maritime Services already defined by IMO in MSC.1 / Circ. 1610?
- What is the purpose and form of the IALA guideline, noting that the IMO Circular must take priority over an IALA guideline?
- What is the process for updating the MSC Circular and would it not be better to focus on updating the MSC Circular?
- There is a need for a consistent approach to the “Description of Maritime Service” field to ensure it describes the provision of digital data and not the operational service it is supporting.
- What is the process for proposing changes to IMO to the current or additional Maritime Services described in MSC.1/Circ.1595?
- What is the purpose of G1155 "The Development of a Description of a Maritime Service in the Context of e-Navigation". Is the plan to publish additional detailed Maritime Service descriptions for all MS's within IALA domain?

The Task Group now notes input ARM13-8.4.1 to the ARM Committee meeting that took place in April. This paper relates to ARM Task 5.1.1 – “Develop Guidance on Maritime Services” and indicates that similar concerns have already been identified within the ARM Committee. A copy of this paper is attached for ease of reference.

Of particular note, this paper recognises that *“the IMO MS related to VTS is divided into three services, MS1, MS2 and MS3”* and that *“in the future this might be merged into one MS service containing all known maritime services for VTS”* – a comment that has also been raised within the VTS Committee.

The ARM paper identifies the fact that *“ARM is the main committee of IALA on management of product specifications”* for Maritime Services and recognises the *“committee should be tasked to focus on the support and delivery to IMO progress”*. Whilst the ARM Task is to *“Develop Guidance on Maritime Services”*, there is no reference to the further development of an IALA guideline in this paper nor is there an ARM13 working paper showing how work is progressing on the development of any such guideline.

Whilst no report or output from the last ARM Committee meeting is yet available on the IALA website, the Task Group supports the view expressed in the ARM13 input paper that work should now focus on the support and delivery to IMO progress. It is, of course, possible that ARM have already agreed a change in direction at their last meeting.

To avoid nugatory work on this task within the VTS Committee there are three important issues that need to be resolved:

- Agreement within the VTS Committee at VTS51 on the structure of Maritime Services in the context of e-Navigation relating to VTS to align with the new Resolutions once issued,
- Agreements concerning other Maritime Services might be take into consideration i.e. LPS,
- Clarification from ARM prior to VTS51 on the scope of the task and how work on the support and delivery to IMO is to be progressed.

Noting the proposals for amendments to the delivery of ARM Task 5.1.1, it is also suggested that closer inter-committee liaison required together with alignment between the VTS Task 1.2.4 and ARM task 5.1.1.

In the meantime, intersessional work on Task 1.2.4 has been suspended pending resolution of these issues.

Yours sincerely,

Malin Dreijer

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Enclosure:

ARM13-8.4.1 WP ARM Maritime Service Guideline development V1.3 (ARM12-8.4.6)