

IHB File No. S3/3100

CIRCULAR LETTER 60/2003
12 September 2003

THE WORLD VTS GUIDE

Dear Hydrographer,

The World VTS Guide is a publication jointly issued by the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), the International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH) and the International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPA). The Secretary-General of IALA has informed the Bureau that the International Federation of Shipmasters' Association (IFSMA) has agreed to join the Board of the World VTS Guide. This publication, according to information provided by IALA, has been designed to give Masters of Ships, navigators and other interested persons, clear and concise, diagrammatic and written information regarding the navigational requirements of the VTS Centres of the World, with particular attention to the communication requirements.

The VTS Guide is supervised by a Guiding Board in which Members of the issuing Associations participate. The co-ordination and administration of the Guide is handled by IALA. The Guiding Board meets two or three times a year, usually in London. An IHO Director, at the invitation of IALA, participated as an observer at a meeting of the Guiding Board in May 2002. Since then, Dr. Chris Drinkwater of the UKHO has participated in the meetings of the Board, representing the IHO at no cost to the Organization. He has provided technical advice when needed, for example on VTS symbology. The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) does not participate in Board meetings, but through MSC/Circ.586/Rev.1/16 June 1999, which is attached as Annex A, has informed IMO Member States on the availability of the World VTS Guide.

The Secretary-General of IALA, Mr. Torsten Kruise, has sent a letter to the Bureau inviting the IHO to join the other Associations and "share the responsibilities for the greater good of this important maritime safety publication". Following a request for clarification as to the "responsibilities" he explained that there are no financial responsibilities for Members of the Board or their Organizations and that Members contribute with comments on the business in hand, presented at meetings. The Secretary-General of IALA also refers to the web site of the publication (<http://www.worldvtsguide.org/>) which amongst others states that: the information contained in the Guide has been supplied by the VTS Centre and prior to publication every item is checked by this Centre, that the publisher (IALA, IAPH and IMPA) can not be held responsible for any inaccuracies or omissions and that the original coastlines have been taken from the appropriate official charts with the authority of the appropriate Hydrographic Offices, to whom acknowledgement is made. Currently the Guide is available for 85 ports in 21 countries as shown in the list at Annex B, provided by IALA. According to the information provided by IALA, individual ports pay 100 pounds (UK) per annum and national countries pay 300 pounds (UK) for all their ports, for the maintenance of the web site.

It is noted that MS already provide this information in their Nautical Publications and at Reference A paragraph 4.3 the IMO invites Member Governments to ensure that VTS information is included in Sailing Directions, Notices to Mariners and other official nautical publications carried on board ships in accordance with chapter V of the 1974 SOLAS Convention.

Member States are requested to inform the Bureau whether they would prefer the Organization to become a full Member of the Guiding Board of the World VTS Guide, in which case the logo of the IHO would be added to the document and web site, or to continue participating in Board meetings as an Observer, providing technical support when needed, by completing the voting form at Annex C and returning it to the Bureau by 31st of October 2003

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

(original signed)

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

Annex A: IMO – MSC/Circ.586/Rev.1/16 dated June 1999
Annex B: List of Ports appearing in the ‘World VTS Guide’
Annex C: Voting Form

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Ref. T2/2.01

MSC/Circ.586/Rev.1
16 June 1999

WORLD VTS GUIDE

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-first session (19 to 28 May 1999), noted that the World VTS Guide produced by IALA, IAPH and IMPA is now available on Internet as well as a conventional publication.

2 The Guide is intended to provide shipmasters and ship navigators with clear and concise diagrammatic and written information regarding the navigational and operational requirements of a significant number of VTS centres throughout the world. It is a collation of the information already routinely provided by VTS centres to hydrographic offices for inclusion in official publications

3 Information on any of the VTS centres included in the Guide can be obtained from the Internet Web Site (<http://www.worldvtsguide.org/>).

4 The Maritime Safety Committee, considering the guide to be a useful publication for navigational safety purposes, invited Member Governments to:

- .1 draw the attention of VTS Authorities, which have established or intend to implement a VTS, to the World VTS Guide in order to consider participation in the scheme;
- .2 draw the attention of shipmasters to the availability through the Internet Web Site of the latest information available on VTS centres included in the Guide; and
- .3 ensure that information on VTS is also included in Sailing Directions, Notices to Mariners and other official nautical publications carried on board ships in accordance with chapter V of the 1974 SOLAS Convention.

IALA, IAPH, IMPA WORLD VTS GUIDE

List of Countries and Ports

16 - 03 - 03

Argentina:

Bahia Blanca
Bajo Parana
Delta
Mar Del Plata
Rio De La Plata

Australia:

Melbourne
Port Hedland
Sydney

Benin:

Port of Cotonou

Bermuda:

Bermuda

Canada:

VTS West
East Coast VTS
ECAREG Fundy
Halifax
NORDREG ECAREG
Northumberland
Placentia Bay
Port Aux Basques
Prince Rupert
St John's
St Lawrence
Sarnia
Strait of Belle Isle
Strait of Canso
Tofino
Vancouver
Western Coast - Local

Denmark:

Storebelt

Finland:

Archipelago
Hanko
Helsinki
Kotka

France:

Le Havre
Marseille
Nantes
Rouen

Germany:

Bremen Wesser
Bremerhaven
Brunsbuttel
Cuxhaven
Ems
German Bight
Hamburg
Hunte
Jade
Kiel Canal
North Sea

Sassnitz
Stralsund East
Stralsund North
Travemunde
Warnemunde
Wismar
Wolgast

Hong Kong:

Hong Kong Port

Japan:

Akasi Kaikyo
Bisan Seto
Kanmon Kaikyo
Kobe
Kurusima Kaikyo
Nagoya
Osaka
Tokyo Bay
Yokohama

The Netherlands:

Amsterdam
Den Helder
Rotterdam
Scheveningen
Western River Scheldt

Norway:

Brevik
Fedje
Oslofjord

Russia:

Nakhodka
Vladivostok

Singapore:

StraitRep

Sweden:

Göteborg

Taiwan:

Keelung

UK:

London
Tees

USA:

Houston
New York
Prince William
Puget Sound
San Francisco

WORLD VTS Guide - VOTING FORM on IHO Participation

*(to be returned to the IHB by 31 October 2003
E-mail: info@ihb.mc - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)*

The IHO should become a full member of the Guiding Board of the World VTS Guide:

OR

The IHO should continue to participate as an Observer:

Any other comments?

Name / Signature

Date: