Nordic expert meeting, Haugesund 25-26.10.2011

Qualification and Training of VTS personnel in Finland

Thomas Erlund 25.10.2011
The Finnish Transport Agency

• is a multidisciplinary expert organisation specialising in transport. It is responsible for the Finnish transport infrastructure and the overall development of Finland’s transport system;

• enables smooth, efficient and safe travel and transport;

• promotes an effective transport system, traffic safety and a balanced and sustainable development of the regions;

• annually purchases maintenance, planning, surveying and other similar services for about 1.6 billion euros, which represents about one-third of Finland’s infrastructure field;

• operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transport and Communications and employs 700 professionals. The nine regional Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment employ about 600 professionals in the transport and infrastructure field;

• offers employment opportunities to approximately 12,000 persons a year.
### Director General

#### Communications
- **Transport System**
  - Transport Planning
    - Passenger and Freight Transport
    - Transport Services and Networks
    - Subsidies for Shipping
  - Strategy
    - Strategic Management
    - Strategic Development
  - Transport and Infrastructure Data
    - Infrastructure Data
    - Transport Information Services

#### Director General's Office
- **Investments**
  - Procurement Guidance
    - Procurement Management
    - Markets and Economy
  - Project Planning
    - Planning
    - Planning Guidance
  - Construction Management
    - Large Investment Projects
    - Improvement Projects
    - Structural Engineering
    - Technical Systems

#### Regional Coordination
- **Maintenance**
  - Infrastructure Maintenance and Operations
    - Maintenance Planning
    - Maintenance Management and Development
    - Maintenance Operations
    - Waterway Units
      - Lappeenranta
      - Helsinki
      - Turku
      - Vaasa
  - Infrastructure Technology
    - Structural Design
    - Engineering Structures
    - Control and Safety Systems
    - Environmental and Safety Issues
  - Hydrographic Office
    - Nautical Charts
    - Hydrographic Surveys
    - Hydrographic Information Management

#### Legal Services
- **Traffic Management**
  - Traffic Services
    - Traffic Control Development
    - Operations Management and Network Usage
    - Winter Navigation
    - Telematics
  - Traffic Control
    - Road Traffic Management
      - Traffic Management Centres
        - Helsinki
        - Turku
        - Tampere
        - Oulu
        (Lappeenranta)
      - Railway Traffic Management
        - Rail Traffic Management Centre
        - Helsinki
  - Vessel Traffic Services
    - VTS Centres
    - Gulf of Finland
    - Western Finland
    - Saimaa

#### Internal Audit
- **Administration**
  - Finance
    - Financial Management Services
    - Accounting Systems
  - Human Resources
    - HR Management
    - Competence Development
    - Change Management
  - Information Technology
    - ICT Infrastructure Management
    - Information Management
    - Enterprise Architecture and Development
    - Document Management
    - Library
  - Administrative Services
    - Office Services
    - Travel and Secretarial Services
    - Support Services

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*The Finnish Transport Agency*
Vessel Traffic Services

5 VTS centrals including GOFREP

Saimaa VTS
Lake Saimaa (Lappeenranta)

Gulf of Finland Maritime traffic center
Kotka VTS, Helsinki VTS sectors 1&2, Hanko VTS and GOFREP (Helsinki)

Archipelago VTS,
Surveillance of Sea of Åland TSS (Nagu, Pärnäinen)

Turku Radio,
Maritime safety radio and Coastal station (Nagu, Pärnäinen)

West Coast VTS
(Pori)

Bothnia VTS
(Vaasa)

Service given: Information, Traffic Organisation and Navigational assistance
Vessel Traffic Service Act

National legislation for VTS; Vessel Traffic Act and Government Decree on Vessel Traffic service. Based on international agreements:

SOLAS V, chapters 8-12
- establishing a VTS
- in force, first of July 1999

IMO resolution A.857(20)
- detailed rules
- authorities (VTS and Competent) definition and jurisdiction

IMO resolution MSC.43(64)
- vessels reporting requirements

IALA:s VTS Manual and Recommendations
- guidance for authority

- establishing a Vessel Traffic Monitoring System

Objectives

The objectives of this Act are to increase the safety and efficiency of vessel traffic and to prevent damage caused to the environment by vessel traffic.
Personnel qualifications

- A VTS operator must have the competence to operate vessel traffic service safely and efficiently.

- A person who has a valid VTS operator certificate issued by the Finnish Transport Safety Agency and has completed a VTS operator’s on-the-job training is allowed to serve as a VTS operator. The VTS authority makes an entry on the certificate concerning completion of on-the-job training.

- The Finnish Transport Safety Agency confirms an on-the-job training plan, which must include a comprehensive description of the training to be provided and definitions by subject area of the knowledge and skills required after successful completion of the training period. (Training plan audited 09/2011)

- Further provisions concerning a VTS operator’s on-the-job training and on-the-job training plan will be given by Government decree.
VTS operator certificate

- In order to be granted a VTS operator certificate, an applicant must have successfully completed a VTS operator basic training and must have sufficient command of the Finnish, Swedish and English languages. If the certificate entitles its holder to provide services referred to in section 6 or section 7, the applicant must in addition have completed a deck officer’s training and must have been granted a deck officer’s certificate.

- The Finnish Transport Safety Agency will enter the vessel traffic services that the certificate holder is entitled to provide on the certificate.

- Further provisions on VTS operator basic training and the language skills required shall be given by Government decree.

Certificate issued by the authorities

SUOMI • FINLAND

No. 14/2007

Alusliikenneohjaajan pätevystodistus  Behörighetsintyg för VTS-operatör  VTS Operator’s Certificate of Competency

This certificate has been issued under the Vessel Traffic Service Act (623/2005). The Finnish Maritime Administration certifies that the holder of this certificate has been issued under the Vessel Traffic Service Act (623/2005). The Finnish Maritime Administration certifies that the holder of this certificate

Nimi  Name
Berndt Thomas Erlund

Syntymäaika  Date of birth
11.11.1974

Nimn  Name

On hyväksytysti suoritettu Merenkulkulaitoksen hyväksymän IALA:n suositukseen V-103 mukainen alusliikenneohjaajan peruskoulutuksen, har genomgått en av Sjöfartsverket godkänd grundutbildning för VTS-operatörer, som överensstämmer med IALA:s rekommendation V-103, who has successfully completed a VTS Operator’s Basic Training in accordance with the IALA recommendation V-103, as approved by the FMA.

Myönnetty  Date of issue
16.05.2007

Uusittu  Date of revalidation

Kelpoisuus  Behörighet för
Tiedotusraportti  Rapporter
Information services

Navigointiluokitus  Innehavarens namnteckning
Navigational assistance service

Voimassaolo päättyy  Valid until
16.05.2012

Alusliikenteen järjestely  Traffic organisation service
Trafficreglering

Suositettu  Förnyad

Maksu  Fee
88 EUR

The holder of this certificate is considered competent to perform the duties of a VTS operator after satisfactory completion of the On-the-Job Training.

Limitations:  NONE

Haltijan allekirjoitus
Signature of the holder

The Finnish Transport Agency

www.fta.fi
VTS supervisor’s qualifications

- A VTS supervisor must have the competence to oversee the vessel traffic service safely and efficiently.

- A person who has a valid VTS operator certificate issued by the Finnish Transport Safety Agency, has completed VTS supervisor advancement training and has sufficient command of the Finnish, Swedish and English languages is allowed to serve as a VTS operator. The Finnish Transports Safety Agency will make an entry on the certificate concerning successful completion of advancement training.

- Further provisions on the VTS supervisor advancement training and the language skills required shall be given by Government decree.
Validity and revalidation of a VTS operator certificate

- A VTS operator certificate is granted for a maximum fixed period of five years and can be revalidated on application.

- In order to have certificates revalidated, applicants must show they have maintained their competence and successfully completed VTS operator supplementary professional training.

- The VTS authority must carry out an assessment of knowledge and skills annually and make an entry of the assessment on the certificate. Persons who are continuously absent for longer than 12 months from work for which they have received an endorsement must complete an on-the-job training period successfully before returning to work.

- Further provisions on the assessment of knowledge and skills, on-the-job training and supplementary professional training related to revalidation of certificates shall be given by Government decree.
Withdrawal of a VTS operator certificate

- The Finnish Transport Safety Agency must withdraw a VTS operator certificate, if the holder's knowledge and skills no longer meet the requirements for certification.

- After investigating the matter, the Finnish Transport Safety Agency may withdraw the certificates of holders who: 1) repeatedly violate this Act or provisions issued under it; or 2) are intoxicated while attending to their duties.

- The person in question must be heard in the matter before the withdrawal of the certificate.

- In cases referred to in subsections 1 and 2, the Finnish Transport Safety Agency may order certificate holders to hand over their certificates to the authorities without delay.

- If a certificate is not withdrawn permanently, the decision must specify the period during which certification will not be granted. The period begins when the person in question has been notified of the decision or at the latest when the certificate expires.

Provisions concerning criminal liability apply to VTS operators.
VTS qualification register

- The Finnish Transport Safety Agency maintains a person register (VTS certification register) in order to supervise the competence of VTS operators and supervisors and to monitor related periods of service.

- The following data may be entered in the VTS certification register as basic information on holders of VTS operator’s and supervisor’s certificates: 1) name and date of birth; and 2) address and other contact data as other information.

- In addition to basic information, data necessary in view of the purpose of the register may be entered in the VTS certification register on: 1) certificates granted; 2) vessel traffic services that certificate holders are entitled to provide; 3) completed on-the-job training; 4) endorsements granted; 5) periods of service in VTS centres; 6) completed VTS operator’s supplementary professional training; and 7) withdrawal of certificates.

- Personal data is removed from the register when ten years have elapsed from the end of the year during which a person’s certificate expires.

- Persons entered in the VTS certification register may be given information concerning themselves. Apart from this, information can only be given to the competent authority, the VTS authority and parties operating a vessel traffic service in cooperation with the VTS authority under the cooperation agreement referred to in section 8(2)(2) and section 16(2).

- Otherwise, what is laid down in the Personal Data Act (523/1999) applies to the handling of personal data entered in the VTS certification register.
Ahead

More services to vessel traffic:
- To provide more services (ships, harbours, pilots, shipping companies, ...)
- Environmental information (weather, ice conditions, water level, ...)
- SRS/VTS generated route plans - evaluation of safe transit

Information exchange between different systems:
- Reduce the reporting burden caused to mariners
- Increase safety and accident readiness for the authorities
- More extensive possibilities for online risk assessment of traffic situation (decision making tools for operators and automated monitoring)

VTOSs workload in acceptable level:
- Technical systems to help VTOSs to monitor the traffic
- Technical systems gather, analyse and provide necessary information
- Possible to handle bigger areas and increased traffic

Harmonisation of SRS and VTS operation at the Baltic Sea
Thank You for Your attention

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