



WHITE PAPER

IALA Is Moving to an IGO. What Does This Mean for the Marine AtoN Industry?



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We believe technology improves navigation™

Who is IALA?

The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) is non-profit and the only technical organisation for marine Aids to Navigation (AtoN). Their focus is to enhance safe and efficient navigation of individual vessels and/or vessel traffic through the harmonisation of AtoN standards worldwide.

IALA is a membership association that consists of three types of industry groups:

- National members – National Authorities
- Associate members – Service, organisation or scientific agency
- Industrial members – manufacturers, consultants and distributors of services or technical advice for AtoN equipment.

IALA technical committees. How do they help?

The powerhouse of IALA is their technical committees. They comprise of industry experts that collaborate and develop Standards, Recommendations and Guidelines to help harmonise AtoN management. They are also involved in developing reference manuals and training courses through the IALA Worldwide Academy.

The IMO and IALA's consultative status

The IMO is the global standards-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping. The IMO creates a regulatory framework for the marine industry that is

"Industrial members play an important role for IALA as they create long standing relationships with decision makers, customers, Aids to Navigation authorities. They have unique access through the latest developments and experts in the world and participate actively in creating the future for Aids to Navigation by being a member of IALA."

~ Francis Zachariae
Secretary General - IALA

fair, effective and universally adopted and implemented.

The IMO works in partnership with other key maritime organisations (such as IALA). They consider the standards, recommendations and guidelines IALA produces on AtoN, as part of their regulatory framework.

The IMO liaises with government authorities to ensure industry regulations are adopted.



IALA Technical Committees - The "Power House" of IALA

Why is IALA moving from an NGO to an IGO?

IALA as they currently stand is a Non-governmental Organisation (NGO). The advice they provide to National Authorities and the IMO is non-binding with no obligation for them to implement.

In the marine industry, IALA is the only association that is not yet an Inter-governmental Organisation (IGO).

It is an opportunity for them to be heard at a Government level with formal recognition of their standards within AtoN.

IALA's change in status to an IGO hopes to influence key areas of the world where:

- Maritime safety is of concern
- Government authorities require guidance on best practice
- Good governance and harmonisation are needed

For the marine AtoN industry, the new status of IALA will provide a robust legal framework that will ensure transparency and facilitate close cooperation with other intergovernmental organisations and governments worldwide.

“Contracting Government undertakes to provide, as it deems practical and necessary either individually or in co-operation with other Contracting Governments, such Aids to Navigation as the volume of traffic justifies and the degree of risk requires.”

~ SOLAS Convention, [Chapter V](#)

IALA Standards



S1010
ATON PLANNING
AND SERVICE
REQUIREMENT



S1020
ATON DESIGN
AND DELIVERY



S1030
RADIONAVIGATION
SERVICES



S1040
VESSEL TRAFFIC
SERVICES



S1050
TRAINING AND
CERTIFICATION



S1060
DIGITAL
COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGIES



S1070
INFORMATION
SERVICES

How will this change impact Governmental Organisations?

Formal recognition of IALA standards will mean that Governments will be expected to:

- Meet their obligations under 'SOLAS Chapter 5 Regulation 13'
- Keep abreast of the relevant standards that apply
- Ensure their installed Aids to Navigation meet the requirements
- Ensure maritime safety is upheld

The IGO process so far and expected outcome

IALA began the process in 2010 by initiating discussions with the Legal Advisory Panel (LAP). It was then submitted to the French government who approved the proposal. To formalise the submission, a draft convention text was required. This took some years to prepare in co-ordination with National Authorities and in 2014, IALA's Members passed the proposal at the General Assembly Resolution.

Since then, the convention text has been presented at preparatory Diplomatic Conferences in Paris (2017), Marrakesh (2018), Istanbul (2019) and in Malaysia in 2020, where it was finally passed. 50 states out of 62 signed the act paving the way for IALA to eventually become an IGO.

The convention is now open for signatures to all states of the United Nations. It requires 30 states to sign and ratify the convention, whereby IALA will become an IGO.

At the time of writing, a number of countries including France, Malaysia, Singapore, Norway and the Netherlands have signed the convention. IALA expects all required signatures will be received and IALA will become an IGO within the next two years.

How can Industrial Members assist with compliance?

IALA Industrial Members have the technical expertise to advise on AtoN requirements. They often collaborate on IALA committees, providing guidance on new standards and recommendations as new technology emerges.

Sealite has been a long-standing Industrial Member of IALA. We currently hold the positions of Vice President of the Industrial Members Committee, Chairman of the ENG Committee Working Group on Lights and Vision, and the IMC Representative to IALA PAP.

The team at Sealite can help to ensure your port meets international standards by offering:

- A review of your current AtoN operations
- Support with technical specifications
- Technical training on installation and maintenance
- Locally appointed agents to assist on-site
- IALA compliant AtoN products that are fit for purpose



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~ Chris Procter
CEO - Sealite

Where can further guidance be found?

IALA provides training via their Worldwide Training Academy on various aspects of Aids to Navigation management.

The topics on offer are:

- IALA Risk Assessment Toolbox
- Aids to Navigation Manager Training (Level 1 & 2)
- Vessel Traffic Services (VTS – Levels 1-5)

Watch our webinar with Francis Zachariae as guest presenter, where he discusses the move to an IGO in more detail.

The Sealite Difference

Sealite is known in the industry for delivering what the others can't. This is the convenience of a complete packaged solution.

The business is in the unique position of being able to match aids to navigation buoys with marine lanterns, mooring, hardware and sinkers to deliver a complete packaged product.

With satellite connectivity and Star2M, the customer can then manage the solution from anywhere at any time.

For customers that require something outside of the range, bespoke products can be designed and manufactured to meet customer specific requirements.

With authorised distributors located in most countries across the globe, the support you need with local knowledge and expertise is not far away.

We are committed to the manufacture and delivery of quality products that are built to last.



About Sealite

Sealite is a global manufacturer of marine aids to navigation. The company is headquartered in Australia, with manufacturing and office locations in the United States, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

The Sealite team is dedicated to servicing the marine industry through the efficient design and production of leading-edge products.

Through close working relationships, maritime authorities and private customers around the globe now trust Sealite to enhance the safety of their operations.

For more information about Sealite, please visit our website at www.sealite.com, email us at info@sealite.com, or call us on one of the numbers below.

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All Sealite products are manufactured to exacting standards under strict quality control procedures. Sealite's commitment to research and development, investing in modern equipment and advanced manufacturing procedures has made us an industry leader. By choosing Sealite you can rest assured you have chosen the very best.



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- ✓ ISO9001:2015
- ✓ Product Innovation
- ✓ Rapid Turnaround

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