

	<b>CIRCULAR 2018-004</b>		
	DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SERVICES AND MERCHANT SHIPPING (ADOMS)		
	<b>FAL Convention (1965) [as amended] Electronic Certification</b>	Ref.	FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2

**Addressees(s):**

- **All ADOMS recognized Organizations and Recognized Security Organizations**
- **Owners, Operators and Managers of ships under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda**
- **All vessels registered under the Flag of Antigua and Barbuda**

**1. Scope**

This Circular is to provide all ADOMS Clients and relevant Stakeholders with information on the validity and use of electronic certificates in respect to both statutory- and non-statutory certification, issued by Recognized (Security) Organizations for and on behalf of the Administration.

**2. Legal Basis**

- Convention on the Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL) 1965
- IMO Facilitation Committee, Circular No. 39, Revision 2 [FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2]
- Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act (MSA) 2006 and adhering Regulations
- Individual Agreements on the Delegation of Authority by ADOMS to relevant Organizations

**3. Summary / Excerpt**

The International Convention on the Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL) 1965, as amended, that has been acceded by Antigua and Barbuda in 2011 and entered into force on the 20th of August 2013, aims at facilitating regulatory and documentary requirements for internationally trading vessels and their operators. FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 provides guidelines for the implementation of electronic certification.

**4. ADOMS Policy**

- i. As with Seafarer's Employment Agreements (ref. to Circ. 2018-003) and in respect of Electronic Record Keeping (ref. to Information Notice 2018-007), ADOMS does not have a particular/proprietary format and requirements in respect of *Electronic Certification*.
- ii. All organizations to which ADOMS has delegated relevant authority in respect of certification are deemed authorized to provide their services also by issuing electronic certificates, in line with all applicable international requirements and as deemed appropriate according to relevant non-mandatory instruments and guidelines.
- iii. The issuing of electronic certificates, subject to the referred provisions, by any of the above mentioned organizations is deemed as duly authorized by the existing agreements referring to certification, in combination with this circular.