

Merchant Marine Circular

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Control and Compliance Department

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-355

- To:** Ship-owners/operators, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates, Recognized Organizations (ROs) and Port State Control Administrations.
- Subject:** Use of Electronic Certificates onboard.
- Reference:** Resolution No. 106-57-DGMM dated March 25th., 2020.
Merchant Marine Circular MMC-347 - Online Certificates Verification.
Merchant Marine Circular MMC-193 - Optional and Voluntary System for Electronic Books on board of Panamanian Flagged Vessels.
FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 - Guidelines for the use of electronic certificates, of April 20, 2016. **(Only as Recommendation)**
-

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform that the Republic of Panama has welcomed the use of the Guidelines for the use of electronic certificates, adopted by the International Maritime Organization by the Facilitation Committee for the use of electronic certificates through the FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 of April 20, 2016, in order to facilitate the use and acceptance of electronic certificates on board.
- 1.2. Furthermore, to inform the stakeholder on the List of Certificates that has been already issued by this Administration as Electronic Certificates, as well as to inform the list of Recognized Organizations authorized on the issuance of Electronic Certificates a per the delegation of authority approved by the Republic of Panama.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. Considering that signed paper certificates issued by our Administration and Recognized Organizations authorized to act on our behalf have been the traditional means of documenting compliance with International Maritime Organization requirements, as well as ships have experienced instances of Port State Control actions because a traditional paper certificate has been issued but has not arrived on the ship, or the traditional paper certificate has been damaged or lost.



Merchant Marine Circular

2.2. The use and acceptance of electronic statutory certificates, including printed versions of electronic certificates is an initiative well supported by the Panama Maritime Authority, in order to reduce the instances of Port State Control authorities denying the validity of these certificates, resulting in a burden to the master and crew, ship owner or operator, Port State Control authorities, Administration, and other stakeholders.

2.3. As per FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 of April 20, 2016:

2.3.1. Certificate means a document issued by the Administration or its representatives that is used to show compliance with IMO requirements and used to describe operating conditions, crewing requirements, and ship equipment carriage requirements. The term "certificate" does not include publications, manuals, instructions or ships' logs used to record ongoing operations; (for the use of electronic books please see our MMC-193).

2.3.2. Electronic certificate means a certificate issued in an electronic format.

2.3.3. Electronic signature means data in electronic form which is attached to or logically associated with other electronic data to serve as a method of authentication of the issuer and contents of the electronic data.

2.3.4. Printed version of electronic certificate means a paper printout produced from the electronic certificate.

2.3.5. Unique tracking number (UTN) means a string of numbers, letters or symbols used as an identifier to distinguish an electronic certificate issued by an Administration or its representative from any other electronic certificate issued by the same Administration or its representative; and

2.3.6. Verifying means a reliable, secure and continuously available process to confirm the authenticity and validity of an electronic certificate using the unique tracking number.

2.4. The use electronic certificates should include the following features:

2.4.1. Validity and consistency with the format and content required by the relevant international convention or instrument, as applicable.

2.4.2. Protected from edits, modifications or revisions other than those authorized by the issuer or the Administration.



Merchant Marine Circular

- 2.4.3. A unique tracking number used for verification as defined in 2.4.5 and 2.4.6 and
- 2.4.4. A printable and visible symbol that confirms the source of issuance.
- 2.4.5. Instructions for verifying the information contained in the certificate, including confirmation of periodic endorsements, when necessary, should be available on board the ship.

3. E-Certificates issued by the Republic of Panama

3.1. Following the initiative of the International Maritime Organization and being aware of the technology advantages, the Panama Maritime Authority has implemented among the Certificates issued as prerogative of this Administration the following Electronic Certificates:

- 3.1.1. Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP).
- 3.1.2. Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security In Respect of Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (CLC).
- 3.1.3. Certificate of Insurance or other financial security in respect of civil liability for bunker oil pollution damage (BCC).
- 3.1.4. Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in respect of Liability for the Death of and Personal Injury to Passengers (PAL).
- 3.1.5. Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in respect of Liability for the Removal of Wrecks (WRC).
- 3.1.6. Certificate of Registry (Patente) (in all its forms).
- 3.1.7. Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance (DMLC Part I).
- 3.1.8. International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC).
- 3.1.9. International Tonnage Convention (ITC69) (duplicates).
- 3.1.10. Minimum Safe Manning Certificate (MSM).
- 3.1.11. National Tonnage Certificates (NTC).
- 3.1.12. Radio License (in all its forms).
- 3.1.13. Deletion Certificate.
- 3.1.14. Statement of Compliance on Inventory of Hazardous Materials (HKC)

3.2. Certificates listed above may be verified by using any of the following methods:

- 3.2.1. QR Code: by scanning the QR Code in your Mobile Device, your certificate is immediately verified.
- 3.2.2. Verification System: through the following link <http://certificates.amp.gob.pa/certificates> the selecting the option "Verification System" and inserting the UNT displayed at the bottom of the Electronic Certificate.



Merchant Marine Circular

3.2.3. Certificates Query: verification instructions for using the option “Certificates Query” through the following link <http://certificates.amp.gob.pa/certificates> is available in our MMC-347.

3.2.4. A user-friendly manual has been prepared that as well is annexed to this Merchant Marine Circular.

4. Organizations Approved for Statutory E-certificates

4.1. As per the information presented to this Administration and the correspondent delegation of authority, the following Class Societies/Recognized Organizations has been approved for the issuance of electronic Statutory Certificates to Panama registered ships:

- 4.1.1.** DNV GL
- 4.1.2.** Nippon Kaiji Kyokai
- 4.1.3.** Bureau Veritas
- 4.1.4.** Indian Register of Shipping
- 4.1.5.** Isthmus Bureau of Shipping
- 4.1.6.** American Bureau of Shipping
- 4.1.7.** China Classification Society
- 4.1.8.** Korean Register of Shipping
- 4.1.9.** RINA Services S.p.A.
- 4.1.10.** Lloyd's Register
- 4.1.11.** Overseas Marine Certification Services
- 4.1.12.** International Register of Shipping (Panama) Inc.
- 4.1.13.** Dromon Bureau of Shipping
- 4.1.14.** CR Classification Society
- 4.1.15.** Inter maritime Certification Services, S.A.
- 4.1.16.** Polski Rejestr Statków S.A.

4.2. Verification instructions for the Statutory Electronic Certificates have been given through the web services provided by each Organization.

5. Instruction for Flag State Inspectors

5.1. Flag state inspectors (FSI) should accept electronic certificates containing the features identified in paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5. The FSI may request the master to demonstrate the validity of the electronic certificate following the instructions available on board the ship (also refer to MMC-347) or by using the QR Code or the Verification System.



Merchant Marine Circular

5.2. If the master does not succeed to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the FSI that an electronic certificate is meeting the requirements, the FSI is advised to consult with this Administration, in order to review any inconvenience with the system or the Class/RO system.

December, 2020 – Inclusion of Polski Rejestr Statków S.A. in paragraph 4.1.16.

October, 2020 – Inclusion of Inter maritime Certification Services, S.A. in paragraph 4.1.15

September, 2020 - New sub-paragraph 3.1.14 included, Statement of Compliance on Inventory of Hazardous Materials (HKC) and reference made to Resolution No. 106-57-DGMM of March 25th., 2020.

June, 2020 - Inclusion of CR Classification Society in paragraph 4.1.14

May, 2020 - Inclusion of Dromon Bureau of Shipping in paragraph 4.1 and Deletion Certificate in paragraph 3.1

April, 2020 - Inclusion of International Register of Shipping (Panama) Inc.

March, 2020 - Inclusion of the Certificate of Registry (Patente) (in all its forms) and the Ships Radio License (in all its forms) in paragraph 3.1 (documents in alphabetical order), and minor correction in paragraph 3.2.4.

January, 2020 - Inclusion of Overseas Marine Certification Services.

November, 2019 - Inclusion of Lloyd's Register, paragraph 4. July, 2019 - Inclusion of RINA Services S.p.A., paragraph 4.

December, 2018 - Inclusion of MSM, ITC69 duplicates, NTC, BCC, PAL and WRC due to electronic version available.

October, 2018 - Inclusion of Korean Register of Shipping in paragraph 4.

May, 2018 - Inclusion of American Bureau of Shipping and China Classification Society in paragraph 4. March, 2018 - Inclusion of Isthmus Bureau of Shipping and Indian Register of Shipping in paragraph 4. February, 2018 - Inclusion of Bureau Veritas in paragraph 4.

August, 2017.

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Circular or any other request should be forward to:

RO & RSO Monitoring Department
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority
Phone: (507) 501-5351

E-mail: ro-panama@segumar.com / ro-legalaffairs@segumar.com

Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/circulars/>