



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
SHIPPING DEPUTY MINISTRY

Circular No. 24/2025

22 September 2025

SDM File No. 05.13.002, 07.23.001.001

To all Registered Owners, Registered Bareboat Charterers,
Managers and Representatives of Ships flying the Cyprus Flag

Subject: Digital Certificates for Seafarers issued by the Republic of Cyprus

I refer to the above subject and further to previous Circulars on the matter¹, I wish to inform you of the following important development of the Shipping Deputy Ministry (SDM), concerning the issuance of seafarers' certificates, endorsements and documentary evidence:

2 In accordance with-

- (i) the relevant provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers Convention, 1978 as amended ("STCW Convention"),
- (ii) the IMO Maritime Safety Committee Circular MSC.1/Circ.1665 "Guidelines on the use of electronic certificates of seafarers", and
- (iii) the relevant national legislation, i.e. The Merchant Shipping (Issue and Recognition of Certificates and Marine Training) Laws of 2008 to 2023 (**Law 27(I)/2008 as amended and relevant Decision P.I.286/2025**) and the Merchant Shipping (Registration of Seafarers and Seafarers' Register) Laws of 2000 to 2024 (**Law 108(I)/2000 as amended and relevant Order P.I. 265/2025**),

as from 14/10/2025 the SDM will commence issuing certificates of competency, certificates of proficiency, documentary evidence of training of seafarers, endorsements, and Seafarers Registration Certificates in digital (electronic) form.

2.1 This new procedure offers seafarers faster, easier and more secure access to their certificates. It also reduces the time needed to obtain these documents, as they must no longer be printed and mailed.

¹ Circular No. 1/2006 dated 3rd January 2006 and Circular No. 18/2016 dated 16th June 2016.



2.2 The content of these certificates, issued in digital (electronic) form, remains the same, in compliance with the relevant provisions of the STCW Convention.

2.3 The certificate remains of size A4, portrait orientation, with the following data included: Certificate Number, STCW Regulation, Function, Capacity, Limitation, Date of Issue, Expiry Date, Name, Surname, Date of Birth, Nationality, Seafarer Number (SFN), seafarer's Photo and Authorized Officer Signature.

Kindly note that the signature of the holder of the certificate will no longer be included in the digital (electronic) certificates.

2.4 Each digital (electronic) certificate contains a Quick Response (QR) code which is a unique scannable code that can verify the authenticity and validity of the digital certificate. The use of QR code simplifies the verification process by allowing for quick, real-time validation using any smartphone or QR code scanner.

3. The certificates of competency, certificates of proficiency, endorsements and documentary evidence of training of seafarers issued in hard copy form prior to the commencement of issuance of the said documents in digital form (as from 14/10/2025) will remain valid until their expiration or replacement. The authenticity and validity of these hard copy certificates can be verified by visiting our website www.shipping.gov.cy and accessing the **Service 'Verify your certificate as a seafarer'**.

4. In accordance with section 10(1) of Law 108(I)/2000 as amended Cypriot seafarers must hold **both** a valid Seafarer Identification and Sea Service Record book (Cyprus seaman's book – "SISRB"), in hard copy form, as well as a valid Seafarer's Registration Certificate, in digital (electronic) form.

4.1 In accordance with section 10(1) of Law 108(I)/2000 as amended, non-Cypriot seafarers must hold a valid Seafarer's Registration Certificate in digital (electronic) form and *may* hold an SISRB in hard copy form, *if they so wish*.

5. The fee for the issuance of a Seafarer's Registration Certificate is 50 euro. The fee for the issuing of an SISRB to non-Cypriot seafarers is 50 euro with an additional charge of 20 euro if selected to be delivered by registered mail. Pursuant to Law 108(I)/2000 as amended, no fee applies for the issuance of an SISRB to Cypriot seafarers.

6. Kindly note that the absence of an SISRB in hard copy form, or, a Seafarer's Registration Certificate in digital (electronic) form, on board Cyprus flagged vessels shall not constitute a reason for delaying or detaining Cyprus flagged vessels. In addition, kindly note that the Proof of Application for SISRB does not have an expiry date.

7. As from 14/10/2025 the current **eSAS platform** will be discontinued and users will not be able to submit new applications through this platform. All new applications must be filed through our new digital platform **Cyprus Shipping 1-stop-shop Portal (CYSh1P)**.

Thus, we urge you to register in CYSh1P the soonest possible and in any case before 14/10/2025.

8. This Circular, **repeals and replaces** Circulars No. 14/2001, No. 26/2001, No. 02/2005, No. 25/2007, No. 11/2009, No. 44/2011, No. 60/2012, No. 39/2014, No. 25/2016 and No. 29/2016.

9. The Shipping Deputy Ministry is at the disposal of Owners, Managers and anyone concerned with the matter for any explanations and clarifications they may require.

This Circular must be placed on board vessels flying the Cyprus flag.



Dr. Stelios D. Himonas
Permanent Secretary

cc:

- Maritime Offices of the Shipping Deputy Ministry abroad
- Inspectors of Cyprus Ships
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Offices of the Republic
- Cyprus Shipping Chamber
- Cyprus Union of Ship-owners
- Cyprus Master Mariners Association
- Association of Merchant Marine Officers
- Recognised maritime training schools
- Recognised Organisations
- Trade Union SEK
- Trade Union PEO
- Trade Union DEOK
- Cyprus Bar Association